

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT PORTOBELLO

HIGH SCHOOL ON MONDAY JUNE 18th at 7.30pm

Chairman: Mr R.L.Sinclair

Present: Mrs M.C.Amos, Mr A.Bryce, Mr G.Cooper, Mr H.Dawson, Mrs J.Hepburn, Mrs B.Heron, Mr J.D.Hosie, Mr A.Hunter, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs C.Kilgour, Mr S.Macintosh, Mr C.J.O'Brien, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs M.Shepherd, Mr J.Strand, Mrs S.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Mrs M.Whitehead, Chief Inspector Brown, Councillors I.J.Berry, K.F.Ward, G.Kerevan, D.Alexander. 2 members of the public

Apologies: Dr N.Child, Mr D.N.Herd, Mrs I.Thomson, Mrs M.Waugh, Dr G.Strang M.P., Cllr P.Nolan. Miss L.Wardrope

The Chairman welcomed the new members Mr Macintosh and Mr Strand to the Council and Chief Inspector Brown.

The Chairman introduced Mr Finlayson to the Meeting and thanked him for giving up his spare time by coming to speak to the Council.

179 DHSS - FACTS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Mr Finlayson expressed his thanks for being invited and explained that the DHSS was now trying to deal with 3 million unemployed with less staff than when there had been 500,000 unemployed. Normally speaking those claiming benefit could earn up to £4 plus legitimate expenses, both husband and wife could earn up to that figure before benefit was affected. Those people who engaged in voluntary work for properly constituted groups such as that proposed by Portobello Baptist Church would not lose benefit provided they were still available for paid employment.

Mr Dawson expressed some doubt about the attitude of the DHSS staff and spoke of the hardship sometimes inflicted.

The Chairman thanked Mr Finlayson for his clear exposition and Mrs Finlayson then withdrew.

180 MINUTES OF MEETING ON MAY 22nd 1984

These were amended at 177 b) by changing the word 'Central' to 'County', with this change Mr Bryce proposed and Mr Westwood seconded, their approval and signing as a true record.

181 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

- 1) Para.172 (i) Cllr Kerevan reported that the Union side was now being approached about opening the Club on Sundays.
- 2) Para.173 (i) Cllr Kerevan reported that the handing over of Rosefield had been to the Recreation Committee and approved. It was likely that full approval would be given and the Rosefield Group should begin preparations.
- 3) Para.173 (ii) Cllr Berry hoped that the Highways Dept would be able to mount a presentation on the Bypass on August 27th. He thanked Cllr Ward for his involvement.
- 4) Para.173 (iii) The Secretary reported that there had been no reply about pedestrian access or signposting. Mr Macintosh drew attention to the difficulty of getting out of Bridge St recently due to work by the Gas Board.
- 5) Para.173 (iv) It was reported that the District Council had now put up new swings and rehabilitated the Crazy Golf. There was a need for an attendant at this last. Cllr Kerevan was given a copy of the full Community Programme. Mrs Thomson hoped that the needs of Bath St for improvement would be born in mind.
- 6) Para.177 a) : Cllr Alexander explained that the Waste Paper collection had ceased because cheap foreign imports had made the collection costs of £50 per ton uneconomical, compared with a sale price of £25 per tonne.

182 CORRESPONDENCE

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- (i) Resignation: A letter was read from Mrs Hazel Reid resigning from the Council because of personal reasons and expressing her best wishes for the future success of the Community Council. The Chairman expressed the regret of the whole meeting and the Secretary was asked to write and thank Mrs Reid for all her good work.
- (ii) Sub Post Offices: The Head Postmaster had replied that 'the national review of the counter network will inevitably result in the closure of certain uneconomic Branch and Sub Post Offices.....no decision has been reached' It was felt this reply was unsatisfactory. To be taken up with POUCS.
- (iii) Police Caravan: A letter forwarded by Cllr Berry from the Police recorded that the caravan would be at a central place on the Promenade on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer and every day during the school holidays. Chief Inspector Brown said that opening the caravan must depend upon the available manpower.
- (iv) Sea Defences: It was noted that a letter from Highways hoped that repairs to the gabions at John St and Joppa was hoped to start before the "Trades" but failing that would start as soon as possible.
- (v) Roads and Traffic Management: A letter to the Chairman recorded that the Highways Dept were willing to give details of the Portobello position to the Community Council on August 27th.
- (vi) District Council Liaison Committee: The Secretary read an invitation from the Chairperson to attend an informal meeting on 25th June to give a reaction to the proposals which were circulated to members as a Summary. There followed an animated discussion with criticism directed at the policy statement Item 5 and at the composition of the proposed Committee. Cllr Kerevan emphasised that attending the informal meeting would simply enable an exchange of views. Mr Hosie and Mrs Jenkins-Thomas volunteered to attend the meeting and report back. This was agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported Balance on General Account: £660.28
on Illuminations A/C £530.29
on Joppa Tennis £157.90

PUBLICITY

The Chairman explained that before the Meeting the officers had had a discussion with a representative of the 'Evening News'. A Branch Office had been set up in Newhaven Rd to increase contact with the communities in Corstorphine, Leith and Portobello, to take full advantage of this it was agreed that a Press Officer be appointed. Mr Hosie was proposed as Press Officer by Mrs Shepherd seconded by Mr Cooper. This was agreed. It was explained that all members of the Council were free to talk to the Press but should inform Mr Hosie. All official statements from the Council would be made by Mr Hosie with a remit that he should try and ensure maximum publicity for activities in Portobello and the activities of the Community Council.

POOL SITE SUB-COMMITTEE - FINAL REPORT

The Chairman reported that the proposals had been put forward to Edinburgh District Council and suggested that the time had come to dissolve the present Sub-committee with thanks to Mr Bryce and Mr Shepherd and let the proposals stand in their own right.

Mr Shepherd explained that there had been insufficient time to submit the final draft to the Officers or Council before the District Council deadline. Cllr Kerevan understood that the officials in the Estates Dept favoured the Community Council proposals as submitted.

However, many members made it clear that they felt considerable unease at being tied to anyone proposal and at the suggestion that the Community /

185 FOOL SITE SUB-COMMITTEE - FINAL REPORT (continued)

Community Council should be involved in setting up a Limited Company to help finance the building or be involved in the management. After further discussion it was agreed that:-

- a) the Proposals should stand on their own merit;
- b) every member would receive a copy of the proposals;
- c) a disclaimer of any financial responsibility be made.

186 * JOPPA TENNIS COURTS SUB-COMMITTEE (Report received after the Meeting)*

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that the District Council required a sight of all tenders for external paintwork and she had accordingly forwarded them.

187 ILLUMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman suggested that Mr Bryce might be willing to take on the Chairmanship of this Sub-committee. On the proposal of Mrs Scott seconded by Mr Westwood the appointment was approved.

188 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- a) Cones in Bath Street: Attention was drawn to the Police cones in the narrow part of Bath Street being used as missiles during the evening and night. Chief Inspector Brown agreed to look into the problem.
- b) In view of the lateness of the hour members were asked to bring any other matters to the attention of the Officers by writing to the Secretary.

189 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that this should take place on Monday August 27th. The Dept of Highways presentation on Traffic Management would be given at this Meeting and the venue would be decided in consultation with Cllr Berry.

DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

REPORT OF INFORMAL MEETING HELD AT CITY CHAMBERS ON JUNE 25th 1984
to discuss the setting up of a Liaison Committee.

Mr J.D.Hosie and Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas represented the Portobello Community Council at this preliminary Meeting. The Report is by Mrs Jenkins-Thomas with the concurrence of Mr Hosie.

The Meeting was for Community Council representatives only and 10 out of 16 Councils were represented.

The Convener of the Meeting, Councillor Richard Kerley, outlined his proposals for the new Committee:-

- a) to act as "a vehicle for perspective to the EDC" on substantial issues.
- b) To draw on the expertise of committee members.
- c) To discuss EDC policies (approximately every five weeks).
- d) To ascertain people's views and to answer questions on items such as general planning applications.

During the discussion that followed the same views were expressed by almost everyone present - A Community Council is a legally constituted body set up to ascertain local opinion and to liaise with the District Council. Community Councils are largely made up of precisely the recognised groups which were visualised as forming part of the Liaison Committee.

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas expressed the view that the new administration should make every effort to set up Community Councils throughout Edinburgh, therefore ensuring that the views of the whole Community were expressed through the bodies set up for the purpose.

Mr Hosie endorsed the idea of a 'forum' of all Community Councils which would have direct access to the District Council.

Representatives at the Meeting were asked to report back to their Community Councils before the end of August and intimate their views, by letter, as soon as possible after that date.

A Draft letter to the Director of Administration is set out below:-

Dear Sir,

DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

In response to the Meeting held at Council Chambers on June 25th, I am instructed to advise you that the matter was considered at our full Community Council Meeting on August 27th and our views are as follows:-

- 1) liaison with the Community as a whole is to be welcomed;
- 2) the proper vehicle for this liaison is the Community Councils;
- 3) the District Council should make more effort to set up Community Councils in parts of the City not covered using all forms of publicity and encouragement;
- 4) a Community Council Forum should be set up with representatives from all Community Councils and having direct access to Edinburgh District Council;
- 5) Community Council representatives on the EDC Liaison Committee should be elected by the Forum and as a legally constituted body should have much larger representation on the Liaison Committee.

Portobello Community Council represents a cross-section of our local community, and welcomes every opportunity to contribute towards decision making in Edinburgh and, in particular, Portobello.

Yours faithfully,

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

from the Secretary: G.A.Cooper

12 Brunstane Road
Edinburgh EH15 2EY

20 June 1984

Councillor George Kerevan J.P.,
14A Dalkeith Street,
Edinburgh EH15 2HR.

Dear Councillor Kerevan,

Leisure Centre for Portobello

Until the Meeting of the Community Council on 18 June 1984, the Office Bearers had not seen the Final version of the Report prepared by Mr Hamish Shepherd and the Pool Site Sub-committee. Our concern is in the manner in which the Report has been presented to the City of Edinburgh District Council, and the way in which our views as a Community Council were represented. Whilst, in general, we approve of the material content of the Report we are concerned about the legal implications for the Community Council.

Referring to Minute 176 of the Meeting of 22 May 1984:-

"The Community Council could obviously take no financial responsibility but would wish to forward the completed Report to the Edinburgh District Council as an alternative to the other options. Once these options were known the Community Council must be in a position to reflect the views of the people of Portobello and therefore the initiative in promoting the proposals of the Sub-committee must lie with the original Working Party that had been brought under the Community Council umbrella."

The Officers of the Council must consider themselves bound by the the decision approved in the Minute and in the light of the discussion at the Meeting of June 18 must dissociate themselves and the Community Council from the statement made on Page 2 of the Report (Scope) in Paragraph 2.4. We can undertake no such commitment.

We would be grateful if you could make the position of Portobello Community Council clear to your colleagues on the appropriate Committee(s) of the City of Edinburgh District Council.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Gordon Cooper
Secretary