

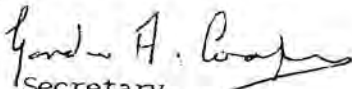
PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FROM THE SECRETARY: G.A.Cooper
12 Brunstane Road,
Edinburgh EH15 2FY
031-669-4048

There will be a Meeting of the Community Council in St John's Primary School, Hamilton Terrace on Monday 18th February 1985 at 7.30 pm.

The Meeting arranged for 15th January 1985 could not be held due to the lack of a quorum, 7 voting members attended. This Meeting will therefore be the 27th. Towerbank Annexe is not available for any bookings but the day and venue has been changed to suit representations made by members. It is hoped that there will be a good turnout.

We have arranged for Mr Beveridge of the Environmental Design Division of EDC Planning Dept and Mr Kemp of EDC Cleansing Dept to be present - they will speak briefly and then answer questions. Mr Beveridge has asked that, if we wish to discuss individual buildings other than those listed below the Agenda, he can be notified in advance. Please let me know of any other building you may wish to raise by Tuesday 12th February.


Secretary

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the 26th Meeting held on Tuesday 11th December 1984
- 3) Planning - Mr Beveridge
- 4) Cleansing - Mr Kemp
- 5) Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere
- 6) Treasurer
- 7) Proposals for Environmental Management
- 8) By-pass Committee
- 9) Illuminations Sub-committee (Report attached)
- 10) Any other business
- 11) Date and place of next Meeting

List of 'eyesores' notified

- 1) 'the carpet shop' 186-188 Portobello High St
- 2) Windsor Place Lodge
- 3) the 'shell' house in Bellfield St
- 4) 15A Bath St
- 5) 23/24 Promenade
- 6) Windsor Place Church
- 7) 'Flemings' Garage
- 8) Outside the Conservation Area - Petrol Station near King's Manor Hotel
Swimming Pool site

5th February 1985

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ST JOHN'S SCHOOL ON MONDAY 18th FEBRUARY 1985 at 7.30 pm

Chair: In the absence through illness of Mr Sinclair, Mr Mosie took the Chair

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mr A.Bryce, Dr N.Child, Mr G.Cooper, Mr W.Davidson, Mr H.Dawson, Mrs M.Dickson, Mrs J.Henburn, Mr J.D.Hosie, Mr A.Hunter, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs H.Kirsopp, Miss R.Lang, Mr C.J.A.O'Brien, Mrs J.Scott, Mr J.Strand, Mrs S.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Mrs M.Whitehead, Cllrs D.Alexander, I.J.Berry, G.Kerevan.

Apologies: Mrs N.Amos, Mr A.Calder, Mr D.Herd, Mrs B.Heron, Mrs C.Kilgour, Mr J.Morrison, Mrs M.Shepherd, Mr R.Sinclair, Mrs I.Thomson, Mrs M.Waugh, Dr G.Strang, M.P., Cllrs Hon. I.Hoy, A.Ward.

Also Present: Mr Beveridge of EDC Planning Dept and Mr Kemp of EDC Cleansing Dept and several members of the public.

237 MINUTES OF 26th MEETING held on 11th Decemebr 1984

Mr Aitken proposed and Mrs Westwood seconded the approval of the Minutes and this was agreed.

238 PLANNING

The Chairman introduced Mr Beveridge of the Planning Dept to the Meeting.

Mr Beveridge explained that his section of the Planning Dept was primarily concerned with conservation issues. It was hoped to concentrate **during late summer 1985** on Portobello and South Queensferry. As far as Portobello was concerned it was **hoped to involve** the Historic Buildings Council who were anxious to promote 'small town schemes'. It was intended to do a **preliminary** survey of buildings of architectural value in Portobello in 1985 and identify a pilot programme of improvements. This survey would then go to the Planning Committee and it would then depend how far they wished to take it.

Mr Beveridge then spoke of the problem buildings that had been notified to him as causing disquiet to the Community Council.

- 1) The 'carpet shop' 186-188 High St: these premises had been the subject of various planning permissions, none of which had taken place. There had been considerable difficulty in finding out who owned the building and it had been decided to take action under the Town & Country Act, the Director of Estates was making a valuation. However, it had to be remembered that it was a C listed building.
- 2) Windsor Place Lodge: Although this building was B listed it had been allowed to fall into a very poor condition. It was felt that expenditure of the order of £60,000 was not warranted from the Conservation budget and as a result the building had been taken down by the Director of Public Services and the fine portico rescued and put into store.
- 3) 15A Bath St: the bottom half of this C listed building was held on the Planning Account and it was hoped to agree a lease for the shop premises shortly.
- 4) Windsor Place Church: B.Tel. had obtained permission to demolish this Church in a Conservation area. The position was somewhat unclear in view of B.Tel. no longer needing the site and the relatively good condition of the building.
- 5) Bellfield St: these premises were subject to a 'Section 13' order and had recently been acquired by someone willing to retain and restore the building - a most satisfactory conclusion.
- 6) 23/24 Promenade: these premises were at present the subject of current planning applications which were under discussion. At this point Mr Strand intervened and revealed that he had put in planning application after planning application and asked how long the process went on. The answer seemed to be until the Planning Dept were satisfied that all aspects had been considered.
- 7) 'Flemings' garage:

238(cont) 7) 'Flemings' garage: these premises and the petrol station near the Kings Manor Hotel were owned by Texaco. Letters had been received enquiring about what change of use would be approved.

- 8) The Meeting was then thrown open to discussion and questions.
- a) A great deal of anxiety was expressed about the disgraceful condition of the 'carpet' shop and the length of time that Portobello had been afflicted with this eyesore. Opinions differed as to whether the premises should be 'bulldozed' or rehabilitated. Mr Beveridge felt that the way forward was by involving some body like the Cockburn Association, he felt that the building had some merit and, in particular, the shop front. He favoured this course as the Cockburn Association appeared to be able to borrow money more cheaply than the District Council. Mr Bryce asked that consideration be given to the Community Council approaching the Secretary of the Cockburn Association and the Chairman agreed to discuss this suggestion at the next meeting of Officers.
 - b) Mr Beveridge explained that there would be a general preliminary survey in the summer with a view to establishing whether money could be obtained for a 'small town scheme'. If successful this would involve external rehabilitation of buildings on the basis of 25% from HBC, 25% from the District and 50% from the owners; no worthwhile action would be possible until 1986/87. It was made clear that there was little chance of an involvement by the SDA on the lines of the Leith Project as this had been primarily for industrial rehabilitation.
 - c) Mr Beveridge agreed to return to the Community Council in the early Autumn to discuss and explain the results of the preliminary survey.
 - d) Dr Child felt that the Community Council must urge the people of Portobello to make up their mind as to what they wanted. Portobello could become extremely attractive to visitors or it could become a dormitory suburb of Edinburgh, the problems needed publicity.

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CLEANSING

Mr Kemp of the Cleansing Dept explained that the Cleansing Dept was very labour intensive and the amount of Cleansing that could be done came to the amount of money available. There used to be some 400 men engaged in street cleaning with some 80-90 working overtime on Saturday and Sunday. A pilot shift scheme had been had been introduced in Pilton/Craigmillar/Leith, 7 day cleaning with men working a 4 shift system with considerable greater attention to cleaning the 'holes and corners'. If finance was available he would like to see it extended throughout the City. Uplifting of household refuse had also been considerably improved. There were certain difficulties with commercial premises still, chiefly in their rubbish being left out too long. This however was primarily a matter for the Police. Although the pilot scheme had the approval of the Trade Unions involved the cost of implementing a full scheme would rise from £1.6 million to £3 million.

In the discussion and questions that followed:

- a) Mr Bryce congratulated Mr Kemp on the state of cleanliness of the beach at Portobello and the effort being made. Mr Kemp reported that the beach cleaning equipment was due to be replaced next year but explained that the use of a furniture van on the Promenade was made necessary by the need to transport staff and all their equipment to work. He also hoped to make sure that waste bins on the Promenade and beach were not uplifted too early.
- b) In response to a query about dog fouling, Mr Kemp explained that it was difficult to hose down streets leading to the Promenade because of complaints from Lothians Fire Brigade over the use of stand pipes - unless they were used in a particular way they tended to silt up. Consideration was being given to using a small mechanical sweeper to clean the pavements.

239(cont.)

- c) In discussing the problems of bulky items dumped in lanes, it was agreed that unlifting of such items took too long, certain difficulties were also noted about abandoned cars. Mr Kemp felt that skips positioned in strategic areas were not the answer in that they led to vandalism and danger to children. Huge quantities of trolleys were removed from the areas near the Superstores. In response to a request Mr Kemp agreed to notify the Secretary about the siting of new litter bins in Portobello. Cllr Kerevan agreed to make enquiries into an apparent conflict between a new By-law that required 'carry-out' shops to have a litter basket near the door and the requirements of the Environmental Health Authority.

240 The Chairman expressed the cordial thanks of the Meeting to Messrs Beveridge and Kemp for attending the Council and clarifying a number of anxieties. All present concurred.

241 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING

- 1) Para.229 (1) The question of the Notice Board was continued until the Chairman was available as he had the matter in hand.
- 2) Para.229 (5) The Secretary reported an invitation from Dr Child as Portobello Reporter Representative to meet members of the Editorial Group to discuss the problems of producing a Newsletter. It was agreed that Mr Cooper and Mrs Jenkins-Thomas arrange a meeting and report back. Dr Child was thanked for his invitation.
- 3) Para.232 The Chairman reported that Mr Sinclair had drawn up certain proposals for Environmental Management, but these were not available. It was agreed that these be submitted as the views of the Officers of the Council by the deadline of March 1st and considered by the Council at the next Meeting.

242 TREASURER

The Treasurer reported General Account £998.65; a figure that included the cheque received from the District Council for the balance of the 1984-5 grant. £939.48 in the Illuminations Account and £408.97 in the Joppa Tennis Court Account. On available figures the shortfall on the Illuminations Account was £242.52, excluding any necessary repairs. Mr Westwood expressed his certainty that more money was available but had not yet been credited to the Account.

243 BY-PASS COMMITTEE

The Secretary explained that this was intended to look into all aspects of the progress of the By-pass and, particularly, to consider the proposals for the signposting of Portobello in liaison with other organisations. It was agreed that the Committee be made up of the Officers of the Council with Mr Bryce, Mrs Kirsopp, Mr and Mrs Westwood and Mrs Shepherd if she agreed. Power was given to co-opt as necessary and Cllr Berry agreed to represent the responsible Authority.

244 ILLUMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Bryce asked the Meeting to approve the Report of the Sub-committee on the Christmas Illuminations, circulated with the Agenda. He expressed his gratitude for the tremendous support received from many people. An account for the work involved from LRC of £1182 had been received and he asked that the Council write to the Director of Highways and express gratitude for the help and co-operation received. This was approved and Mrs Westwood seconded adoption of the Report. All present agreed. It was agreed that consideration be given by the Sub-committee to the form that the Summer Illuminations should take.

The Secretary drew attention to the fact that the name of Mr Dawson had never been added to the Sub-committee. This seemed ridiculous in view of his sterling work. It was agreed that this had been an oversight and the appointment of Mr Dawson was homologated back to August 1984.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) Towerbank School: Mrs Hepburn drew attention to the anxiety caused to parents by reports of individuals loitering round the school. It was agreed to write to the Police and District Council expressing disquiet and asking that something be done.
- 2) Dog Fouling Notices: Mrs Whitehead asked when metal notices would be available and be fixed on lamp-posts, etc. It was agreed to write to the Environmental Health authorities.
- 3) Number of Meetings: Mr Dawson expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of time for discussion of items on the Agenda and expressed the belief that the Constitution required 12 Meetings per year.

The Secretary read the Constitution as approved by the District Council:-

"Clause 9 MEETINGS

3. Meetings of the Community Council shall be held in public. There shall be at least six Meetings in each year at times and places to be determined by the Community Council."

It was agreed that the Secretary check the appropriate Minutes and clarify the position.

"Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Portobello Community Council, on Monday 1st November 1982.

11. CONSTITUTION

The model Constitution was discussed as follows;

1. TITLE: The Constitution shall be known as the Portobello Community Council
 2. FUNCTION: The functions of the Community Council shall be those set out in Section 51(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and any other functions which may be agreed between the Community Council and the City of Edinburgh District Council.
 3. MEMBERSHIP: The numbers 20 and 20 were to be inserted in Section 3, para. 1.
- 5a. It was suggested that this paragraph was in conflict with para. 8a of the City of Edinburgh District Council Scheme for Community Councils. The Chairman was asked to clarify this matter with the liaison officer of the District Council.
- 9a. NOTICE OF MEETINGS: It was agreed that meetings should normally be called with notice of 7 days; with reference to Special General Meetings, Section 10e of the schedule will apply.
- 15a QUORUM: It was agreed by a majority that the quorum of the full council should be 15.
- 15b It was decided after discussion that there should be no finance sub-committees and that sub-committees should be formed on an ad-hoc basis. The amended model constitution was then agreed.

12. NUMBER OF MEETINGS

It was decided that the number of Meetings be decided at the next meeting."

- 4) Postcards: Mrs Jenkins-Thomas drew attention to the lack of up to date attractive postcards of Portobello. It was agreed that the Council look into the matter and members would look at what was available in the shops. Mr Bryce offered to consult the Tourist Association and report back.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to experiment by rotating the Meetings from Monday through Thursday. The next Meeting to be at Portobello High School on Tuesday 19th March. It was agreed that an extra Special Meeting be held on Tuesday 26th March to hear and publicise details of diversions of bus and other traffic due to the closure of Brighton Place and Portobello Rd. Venue to be arranged between the Officers and Councillor Berry. It was emphasised that this would not be part of the normal cycle of Meetings.

Following upon the Council Meeting of December 11th 1984 the remaining decorations were ordered and duly arrived by Special Delivery from Burnley at the end of that week and were then erected by Lothian Region Highways Lighting Dept on Sunday 16th December.

Arrangements have now been made to take down the decorations on Thursday 17th January by Lothian Region. James Scott & Sons (Portobello) Ltd are providing a van to uplift the decorations and they will then be stored in the basement of Portobello Old and Windsor Place Church in Bellfield St. The hire of the van will require to be paid for.

I am sorry that it was not possible to have the Santa Sleigh and Reindeer decorations erected. Because of their shape it was not possible, in the time at our disposal, to construct a frame which would have been secure enough to take these decorations but we will work on this and have something ready for next Christmas. Meantime, I feel that the Sub-committee should concentrate on improved lighting for the Promenade and in due course I hope to bring forward a further report from the Sub-committee.

The Community Council members will no doubt have their own views on the High Street Illuminations. In many ways I am very pleased with what was achieved in the time at our disposal, yet disappointed that the visual effect did not have a greater impact. This I think was because the decorations were too far apart, too small to attract attention at the height they had to be placed for safety and not brightly enough lit. I would hope that some of these problems will be overcome before next year.

The Community Council are greatly indebted to many people for the Illuminations project. Firstly to all who subscribed to the Fund; to the members of the Committee who worked so hard to make the project a success, and without wishing to detract from the other members efforts I feel I must mention Susan and Bill Westwood and Harry Dawson for their strenuous fund raising efforts and for the work they did in preparing the decorations for erection. We are also indebted to Mr Frank McDonald, Joiner, Station Brae, for making frames required for some decorations and to Mr Joe Barker for the considerable inconvenience caused to him when his workshop was "commandeered" for storage and adaptation of the decorations.

I would also like to add my own personal thanks to my Committee for their dedication, our Treasurer for his patient and painstaking work, and to all members of Council who have supported us so nobly and enabled us to make a start towards creating a brighter Portobello.

(Signed) Alex Bryce.

NOTE

At the Meeting on January 15th which had to be cancelled due to the lack of a quorum the Treasurer reported that the Illuminations Account then held £ 948. On this figure he estimated that Expenditure would exceed Income by at least £460. GAC.