

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

from the Secretary: G.A.Cooper  
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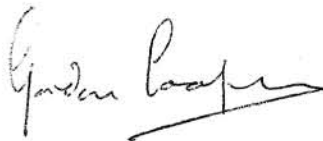
There will be a Meeting of the Community Council in the Baptist Church Hall,  
Portobello High Street, on Wednesday 24th April 1985 at 7.30 pm

You are cordially invited

## AGENDA

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the 28th Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 1985
- 3) Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere
- 4) Proposal to change the Constitution:-  
" Delete the present CLAUSE 9B and substitute-  
'Meetings of the Community Council shall be held in public. There shall be at least 12 Meetings in each year at times and places to be determined by the Community Council. Each member is required to attend a minimum of 6 Meetings in each year or be disqualified and replaced under the set procedure.'  
proposed by Mr H.A.Dawson      seconded by Mr W.Westwood "
- 5) Sub-committee Reports:
  - a) Illuminations
  - b) Post Card (ex Poster)
  - c) Joppa Tennis Courts
- 6) Environmental Management
- 7) Finance
- 8) Any other Competent Business
- 9) Date and Place of next regular Meeting (proposed - St Mark's Church Hall, May 23rd)

16th April 1985

  
Secretary

Report on Musselburgh Meeting by Mr Dawson enclosed.

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 29th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE BAPTIST CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 24th 1985 at 7.30 pm

Chair: Mr R.L.Sinclair

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mrs S.S.Brown, Dr N.Child, Mr G.A.Cooper, Mr H.A.Dawson,  
Mr H.E.Fitzsimmons, Mrs J.Hepburn, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mr J.D.Hosie, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas  
Mrs C.Kilgour, Miss R.R.Lang, Mr W.S.McDonald, Mr C.J.A.O'Brien, Mr R.L.Sinclair,  
Miss L.Wardrope, Mrs S.M.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Mrs N.Whitehead, Cllrs K.F.Ward,  
G.Kerevan.

Apologies: Mrs M.C.Amos, Mr A.Bryce, Mr W.Davidson, Mrs H.Kirsopp, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs M.Waugh,  
Dr G.Strang, M.P., Cllrs I.J.Berry, P.C.Martin, Inspector Alexander.

257 MINUTES OF 28th MEETING held on Tuesday 19th March 1985

It was agreed that these be amended at 251, 6th line by deleting 'contrary' and substituting 'not the same'. With this amendment Mr Hosie proposed and Mr Westwood seconded approval of the Minutes and this was agreed.

258 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

- 1) Para.248 (2) The Secretary reported that the Cockburn Association had confirmed the eligibility of the Community Council for membership at an annual subscription of £15. It was agreed to affiliate. The Secretary also reported that Mr Barratt had mentioned in the letter that the likelihood of the Cockburn Conservation Trust being able to restore the 'carpet shop' (238 (1)) was small unless there was outside financial help.
- 2) Para.252 The Secretary reported a reply from the Chief Constable. Extracts from the letter were read including an explanation that it was not possible to train school staff as extra crossing patrols and an appeal for any suitable volunteers from those known to the Community Council. Some shock was expressed at the statement "whilst the number of child pedestrians injured in road accidents in Lothian Region during 1983 seems high at 33.9%, when compared with 44% for Scotland as a whole, I am sure you will agree that we are in fact fairing quite well." It was agreed that the letter be copied to PTAs in the area.
- 3) Para.254 Copies of a Circular on Bus Service diversions of Portobello were circulated. The copies had been supplied by Cllr Berry.
- 4) Para.255 (1) The Secretary reported that 'Misty's Nitespot' had been restricted by the Licensing Board to an 11 pm closure.
- 5) Para.255 (2) Mrs Jenkins-Thomas drew attention to the cleaning of the beach. It was unanimously agreed that the Cleansing Dept be asked to have the beach cleaned for Easter whenever it fell in the calendar.
- 6) Para.255 (4) Mr McDonald reported that Miss Emblem had now been advised to postpone her visit to the U.S.. He expressed his regret at bringing the matter to the Community Council when the matter had already been in the hands of the District Council. Councillor Ward expressed his surprise that the item had appeared in the Minutes when the Education Committee had been awaiting a report. The Chairman apologized if any embarrassment had been caused but explained that, if an item was raised, it must obviously be Minuted, unless a contrary decision was deliberately taken.

258 (cont) MATTERS ARISING

- 7) Para.238 (1) Councillor Kerevan reported that the District Council and the Secretary of State had amended the listing of the 'Carpet Shop' to Grade C (statutory). He explained that this was to enable the District Council to give greater protection to the premises and exert more pressure.

259 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION

- 1) The Chair explained that the proposal to disqualify members for non-attendance was invalid in terms of the City of Edinburgh Scheme for Community Councils and of the Constitution of Portobello Community Council as approved by the District Council. Any proposals passed by the Community Council would, in any case, require the consent of the District Council before they came into effect.
- 2) The Secretary circulated a list giving the attendance of Representatives between 20th March 1984 and 19th March 1985. The names of those members not fulfilling the percentage attendance suggested in the Motion were marked with an asterisk. The asterisk by the name of Mrs Hepburn was a typing error.
- 3) The Motion as printed was deemed to have been formally proposed and was discussed at length.  
Mr Dawson felt that the present position was very unsatisfactory. If there had to be at least 12 Meetings, more time could be devoted to topics of importance and the discussions would have greater depth. There would be greater opportunity to discuss matters of moment and every other meeting could then include a guest speaker with time available for discussion and questions from the floor.  
Dr Child agreed that it was a valid issue to discuss but felt that the Motion was not the way that the desired objects could be achieved. The important question was how to establish the Community Council as a worthwhile forum and attract greater public interest. Indeed, it might be better to reduce the actual number of meetings to six.  
Cllr Ward suggested that the matter should be kept in perspective. Lothian Regional Council had only 14 full meetings per year, the fact that the Community Council was operating at the present level was very commendable.  
The Chairman expressed his appreciation of what the Motion was trying to achieve, he felt that the proposals were really intended to exert pressure on people who did not attend. He said that the intention of the Officers was to fit in as many meetings as possible. It must be remembered, however, that the greater the number of meetings, the greater the burden on the Officers and particularly the Secretary, who deserved the thanks of the Meeting for his efforts.
- 4) The Motion was, by leave, withdrawn by the sponsors.
- 5) It was then proposed by Mrs Jenkins-Thomas seconded by Mrs Hepburn that:-
  - a) the Meetings be held in a regular venue;
  - b) the Meetings be advertised more widely;
  - c) letters be sent to those elected Representatives whose attendance had fallen below 40%;
  - d) letters be sent to nominated members and their parent organisations where the attendance had fallen below 40%;
  - e) every attempt should be made to hold to hold consecutive Meetings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

This was agreed.

260 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Illuminations

In the absence of Mr Bryce, the Secretary read a report covering the Meeting of the Sub-committee on April 16th when plans for lighting of the Promenade and how this would be funded were discussed. The main concern was over getting the existing Promenade lights into good condition and Messrs 'Northern Lights' had been asked for a report. The discussions were continued to April 30th. Mr Dawson added that an estimate from 'Northern Lights' was now awaited. The Chairman thanked Mr Dawson for his report, on behalf of the Illuminations Sub-committee, on the meeting in Musselburgh.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont.)b) Post Card

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that Mr Herd and Mrs Hepburn wished to withdraw from the Sub-committee due to the pressure of other commitments. Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that a firm 'Dennis of Scarborough' were willing to produce, print and distribute Post Cards, at no cost to the Community Council, on the receipt of suitable negatives.

She proposed that a two tier competition be held to find appropriate pictures of Portobello, the competition to be open to the Secondary Schools and adults. The photographs would be judged at an Exhibition and prizes awarded.

These proposals were approved and Mrs Jenkins-Thomas was asked to obtain a written statement from the Company.

Mr Hosie proposed and Mr Westwood seconded that a new Sub-committee be formed with Mrs Jenkins-Thomas as Convener. This was agreed and the composition of the Sub-committee was agreed as Mrs Jenkins-Thomas (Convener), Mrs Brown, Miss Wardrone, Mrs Whitehead. It was also agreed to co-opt Mr R. Aitken jnr to the Sub-cttee as photographic adviser.

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas asked if £50 could be provided for expenses and prizes, and this was approved on the proposal of Mr Westwood, seconded by Dr Child.

c) Joppa Tennis Courts

Mrs Whitehead reported that the next meeting of the Sub-committee would be on April 30th when arrangements for the season would be discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Chairman circulated sketches of alternative proposals for the Town square. He emphasised that these were merely intended to stimulate discussion. One plan was based upon the proposals produced by PAS and modified by the Regional Council and the other maximised the amount of car-parking.

After a wide ranging discussion covering amenity versus car-parking, the danger of vandalism of seats on the N. side of the square and the problems of pedestrian crossings (controlled by lights) if the present lights were removed, and a suggestion for a radical One-Way traffic system; it was proposed by Mr Dawson seconded by Mrs Jenkins-Thomas, that the proposals put forward by the Region's Environmental Management Team as sketched in the PADCA Exhibition, be accepted with the broader pavement being on the N. side and bus 'lay-byes' reduced to two and indented in the paved area. This was agreed unanimously.

Whilst it was agreed that maximum car-parking facilities were essential to the future of Portobello as a shopping centre and tourist attraction there was considerable discussion over how best to achieve this without distracting from the amenity of the Town Hall square. Various suggestions were made but none were acceptable to the whole Meeting.

Mr Westwood proposed, seconded by Mrs Heron that the Council declare itself in favour of maximum parking on Portobello High Street. There voted FOR the Motion 10 and AGAINST the Motion 9. The Motion was therefore declared CARRIED.

The Secretary was instructed to write conveying these decisions to the Highways Dept as speedily as possible.

FINANCE

The Treasurer presented draft Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1985 and explained that these were now with the Auditor and would be circulated and discussed when his Certificate had been received. The Chairman expressed the congratulations of the Meeting to Mr O'Brien for his efficiency and speed.

Balances on the various accounts were reported as:

General	£737.48
Illuminations	£ 29.19
Joppa Tennis Courts	£408.97

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 1) Functions of Community Councils: Mr Westwood raised the possibility of Community Council Representatives holding regular Saturday morning surgeries in some/

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS (cont.)

- 1) Functions of Community Councils (cont): some central place such as the Town Hall to advise the public. Cllr Ward felt that this was not within the remit of a Community Council. Secretary to clarify the position with Mrs Sinclair, the District Council liaison Officer.
- 2) City of Edinburgh Leisure Plan: Mrs Jenkins-Thomas drew attention to the plan and the Secretary distributed some copies. It was noted that the provision of a major recreational facility at the Pool Site and developing Portobello Town Hall for summertime entertainment, including a Harry Lauder Museum, were the only references to Portobello.  
It was agreed that the Community Council try to arrange a Public Meeting in the Town Hall to which representatives of the Dept of Recreation be invited to discuss the Plan as it related to Portobello.
- 3) Donations to Baptist Church and Old Parish Church: The Chairman asked the Meeting to remit this to the Officers and this was agreed. Mr McDonald was asked to convey the sincere thanks of the Council for the use of the Hall to the Board.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

This was announced as St Mark's Church Hall on Thursday May 23rd. It was agreed to make every effort to obtain a permanent venue and approach the Baptist and Congregational Churches.

ATTENDANCE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS FROM 20 MARCH 1984 to 19 MARCH 1985

In this period there were 12 valid Meetings. Messrs Dawson, Macintosh and Strand, together with Miss Wardrope have a maximum of 10. The results are, therefore expressed as a percentage as well. 6 Meetings are 50%.

<u>Elected Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Nominated Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	
AMOS Mrs M.C.	8	67%	AITKEN R.M.	10	83%
BROWN Mrs S.S.	10	83%	BRYCE A.	9	75%
CALDER A.	3	25% *	CHILD Dr N.	4	33% *
ELLIOT P.D.	0	0 *	COOPER G.A.	10	83%
HERD D.N.	4	33% *	DAVIDSON W.	3	25% *
DAWSON H.A.	9	90%	DICKSON Mrs M.	2	17% *
HERON Mrs B.E.	8	67%	FITZSIMMONS H.E.	7	58%
HOSIE J.D.	11	92%	GRAINGER M.	4	33% *
JENKINS-THOMAS Mrs M.	10	83%	HEPBURN Mrs J.	9	75%
MCDONALD W.S.	5	42% *	HUNTER A.	2	17% *
MACINTOSH S.	2	20% *	KIRSOPP Mrs H.	8	67%
SHEPHERD Mrs M.	6	50%	KILGOUR Mrs C.	8	67%
SINCLAIR R.	8	67%	LANG Miss R.R.	4	33% *
STRAND J.	4	40% *	MORRISON J.S.	0	0 *
WARDROPE Miss L.	4	40% *	O'BRIEN C.J.A.	10	83%
WAUGH Mrs S.M.	7	58%	SCOTT Mrs J.	8	67%
WESTWOOD Mrs S.M.	10	83%	THIRD D.	0	0 *
WESTWOOD W.	11	92%	THOMSON Mrs I.	5	42% *
WHITEHEAD Mrs M.	9	75%			

Of 19 elected members 7 or 37% would be disqualified including 3 elected most recently.

Of 18 nominated members 10 or 55% would be disqualified.