

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

from the Secretary:

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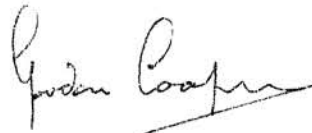
2 August 1985

There will be a Meeting of the Community Council in St Mark's Church Hall,
Portobello High Street, on Monday 26th August at 7.30 pm 1985.

You are cordially invited

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome to New Members
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of the Meeting on June 24th 1985, previously circulated.
- 4) Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere
- 5) Financial Statement
- 6) Sub-committee Reports(if any)
 - a) Illuminations
 - b) Joppa Tennis Courts
 - c) By-pass
- 7) Implementation of Section 48 of the Civic Government(Scotland)Act 1982
(dog fouling)
- 8) Amenity and Environment
 - a) Pool Site
 - b) Shops including 186-188 High St
 - c) Windsor Place Church and Lodge
- 9) Directory of Portobello
- 10) Any other Competent Business



Secretary

NOTE

Elections to fill 4 vacancies for nominated representatives will take place
in the Church Hall at 7pm.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 32nd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY,
AUGUST 26th at 7.30 pm

Chair: Mr R.L.Sinclair

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mrs M.C.Amos, Mrs S.S.Brown, Mr A.Bryce, Dr N.Child, Mr G.A.Cooper,
Mr H.A.Dawson, Mr H.E.Fitzsimmons, Mrs J.Hepburn, Mr J.D.Hosie, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas,
Miss R.R.Lang, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs M.Shepherd, Miss L.Wardrope, Mrs M.Waugh,
Mrs S.M.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Mrs M.Whitehead; Dr G.Strang, M.P., Cllrs I.J.Berry,
K.F.Ward, K.Dodds, G.Kerevan, P.C.Martin, Chief Inspector G.Mackay and a number of
members of the public.

Apologies: Mr W.Davidson, Mr M.Grainger, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mrs H.Kirsopp, Mr C.J.A.O'Brien,
Mrs I.Thomson, Cllr Hon. I.R.Hoy, Cllr P.W.Nolan, Cllr R.Alexander.

281 ELECTION

The Chairman reported that an Election had been held before the Meeting in terms of 'Para 6 - CASUAL VACANCIES' of the Constitution to fill vacancies that had arisen amongst Nominated Representatives on the Council. The Calling Notice and the the local organisations registered with the City of Edinburgh District Council had been cleared with the Community Council Liaison Officer and he had acted as Returning Officer. Four vacancies fell to be filled and he had pleasure in welcoming Mrs M.Anderson of P.A.D.C.A. Senior Social Club

Mr David Edwards of 1143 Squadron ATC

Mrs Sue Hurford of Brighton Residents Association

Mr John F.Renz of East Edinburgh Conservative Association.

Mr Westwood questioned the propriety of having a Representative proposed by a political party but was ruled Out of Order by the Chairman, in that the registration of Local Interest Groups was the prerogative of the District Council..

282 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Karin Dodds to her first Meeting and expressed his pleasure at seeing Dr Strang, many Councillors and so many members of the public.

283 MINUTES OF 31st MEETING held on June 24th 1985

Mr Westwood proposed and Mrs Waugh seconded their approval as a true record and this was agreed.

284 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

- 1) Para. 275 d) The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from Cllr Lazarowicz regretting that the Council had encountered difficulties over the meeting regarding the Leisure Plan and offering to attend a future Meeting in person. It was agreed to accept the offer with thanks and invite Cllr Lazarowicz to a future Meeting.
- 2) Para. 278 d) The Secretary reported that as a result of writing to Cllr Berry about the problems of the By-pass replies had been received from the Lothians and Borders Police covering the problems of parking at the top of Bridge St and other areas; from the Transport Dept explaining that rerouting Services 12 and 42 would involve the commitment of some tens of thousands of pounds worth of resources that could not be justified; and from the Highways Dept covering warning signs at Wakefield Ave, removal of the bus route sign at Fishwives Causeway, a review of the existing waiting restrictions in Portobello in conjunction with the environmental traffic management proposals and traffic flow in Brunstane Rd.

(cont.)

284 (cont.) 2) Para. 278 d)

The Secretary also reported that he had discussed these points with representatives of the Highways and Transport Dept at a meeting on June 28th and they seemed to show genuine concern over the problems of Portobello. Mrs Shepherd confirmed that as President of the Portobello Hoteliers and Merchants she had received a copy of the letter to Cllr Berry and the Association had made similar approaches. A Mrs Bromley of 3 Rosefield Place raised problems caused by the Bypass operations in Baileyfield Rd. She had been informed that this was caused by the work interfering with the water table, causing rot in her floor boards. Cllr Berry explained that the Drainage Dept were conscious of a rise in the water table and discussions were taking place with the Contractors and British Rail to discover responsibility. The Chairman suggested that the Secretary should write to Cllr Berry so that the trouble could be recorded and the situation explained. Dr Strang took a note of Mrs Bromley's problems. Mrs Scott reported that slurry had run into her garden from the pile driving but this had been efficiently and rapidly removed. She expressed some horror that the work did not appear to have moved on at all. Cllr Berry offered to send the file on the operations to the CC so that they could see the problems encountered.

3) Para. 279 1)

The Secretary reported that he had written to the Editor of the Evening News and to Mr Law and it was hoped that normal relations would now resume.

4) Para 279 2)

Councillor Kerevan distributed copies of a Circular addressed to Mr Cooper, the Secretary, objecting to certain phrases in the letter that the Secretary had sent to him on various topics including the Public Toilets at the bottom of Pipe St. The Secretary regretted that a letter intended to raise various matters of concern had caused offence, perhaps because of an attempt to treat matters of major concern in a light hearted manner. However, he reiterated his statement that the inhabitants of Portobello seemed to be treated as second class citizens. This was no problem of the present administration, when he first came to Portobello in 1948, the place had seemed run-down, after moving to Trinity and Corstorphine, he had returned in 1963 and there had not been a great deal of improvement since that date. Cllr Kerevan accepted the statement.

It was noted that the Director of Cleansing was to write putting the rumour about the Pipe St toilets to rest.

5) Para. 279 3)

It was reported that a donation of £50 had been made to the Fringe Festival and this had been divided 50% to the Breakdance Competition and 50% for the sandcastle. Councillor Kerevan felt that the events had really involved the community and that everything had gone off in a very satisfactory way. It provided a basis on which greater things could be built and had attracted wide backing from the people of Portobello. The Chairman offered the congratulations of the Community Council to all concerned. Mr Bryce expressed himself as delighted with the success of the event but pointed out that the PTDA ran a number of events during the summer and was pleased to announce a grant of £3500 from EDC to help them in organising many further events.

285

FINANCE

In the absence of the Treasurer on holiday, the Secretary read a report giving balances as follows:- General Account £1284.72; Illuminations £4.19; Joppa £258.97.

It was also reported that the full grant of £950.82 had been received from the Edinburgh District Council on July 15th.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Illuminations

Mr Bryce regretted that the lighting on the Promenade was still not in a satisfactory condition, Messrs Northern Lights had sent samples of the wiring to Italy for examination and a report was awaited. An application form for a grant had been received and it was proposed to apply for money to maintain the decorative lighting on the Promenade and the Christmas lighting. Mr Bryce then produced a board painted with a 'Disney' character and explained that it was intended to circularise all traders asking them to pay for a similar board to be displayed on their premises. Members of the Community Council volunteered to help in the distribution. Various members queried why traders should always be asked for money and whether 'Disney' characters were the most appropriate pictures. The Chairman asked Mr Bryce to check over whether any copyright problems existed and consider alternatives. Matter to be special item on agenda for next meeting.

b) Joppa Tennis Courts

Mrs Whitehead gave an interim report on the transactions during the season and promised a full report on the whole season at the next meeting after the final meeting of the Committee on September 22nd. A proposal to provide a memorial seat in memory of Mr Davidson was warmly approved. The Secretary reported that the Account for the renewal of the lease had been sent in error to Mr Rendall in London. This had now been retrieved and paid by the Treasurer.

c) By-pass

The Chairman regretted that this Committee had not yet met. It was agreed that the question of landscaping and signposting was urgent and a meeting would be arranged with Cllr Berry. Mrs Hurfords name was added to the members.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 48 OF THE CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

The Chairman explained that the problem of dog fouling was behind the rather formidable title. It was a difficult subject in that many people found great comfort in dogs, particularly the elderly and lonely. The Secretary reported that he had written to Chief Inspector Mackay enquiring how many prosecutions under the Act had occurred in a) Portobello and b) In the Region. Chief Inspector Mackay had kindly agreed to make informal enquiries and state his findings to the Meeting.

Chief Inspector Mackay reported that informal enquiries had shown that there had been one incident reported to the Procurator Fiscal and one warning had been issued. However, he could assure the Meeting that there was no reluctance to report for prosecution. The difficulty was that people did not allow their dogs to misbehave when a uniformed officer was present. Areas covered in the Act included the Promenade and the verges of footpaths; the seashore was a very questionable area and the Statutory notice was not visible in Abercorn Park.

The Secretary as a retired biologist was asked to comment on the problem of toxicaria. He explained that as he understood it the cysts were present in the faeces of both dogs and cats. Although there was a great deal of concern, he understood that only some six cases of infection of children had been reported over a considerable period. However, given the habit of dogs and cats of sniffing at faeces it seemed likely that the infection could spread in the animal population and the press had reported five or six cases during the present year. The solution was undoubtedly regular worming which should be the regular habit of any careful pet owner.

After considerable discussion of the problem it was agreed to approach the Environmental Health Authority for advice on the installation of 'doggy-loos' in various situations possibly involving other organisations in the area in sponsoring these. The problem of emptying them would have to be taken up with the Cleansing Dept. Every effort should be made to secure publicity and involve caring dog owners. It was noted that the letter from Cllr Kerevan referred to at 284(4) referred to the augmentation of the dog warden scheme. Secretary to write and enquire how many stray dogs had been rounded up in the Portobello area in 1985.

a) Pool Site

Mr Dawson asked, that after the events on the District Council he would like an assurance from Cllr Kerevan that the Pool Site would not figure in the 'creative accounting' discussed. Cllr Kerevan said that he was happy to give a categorical assurance that the site would not be sold off for housing. The present position was that every effort was being made to find a partner, with finance, to develop the Pool Site for recreational purposes. Discussions were continuing with the SDA. Amongst other facilities visualised the Recreation Dept would like to see provision for wind surfing and other aqua sports.

Attention was drawn to the scheme drawn up under the aegis of the Community Council and submitted in June 1984. Mr Westwood suggested that a scheme could start by filling in the 'pool' with rubbish and developing from the High St facade as funds became available. Dr Strang felt that it was absolutely right for the Community Council to keep the topic on their Agenda and continue pressure for the recreational development of the site. Mrs Jenkins-Thomas drew attention to the fears expressed at the last Meeting by people from the 'Salvesen' housing - the site was a danger and an eyesore and had become a focus for very undesirable activities. Mrs Waugh drew attention to the proposals put forward by PADCA some 10 years ago for a Health Centre on the site. After further discussion, Cllr Kerevan recommended that a delegation ask to meet the Recreation Committee, he offered to do his best to ensure that both Cllr Lazarowicz and the Director, Mr Connolly, would be present. It was agreed that the Pool Site Sub-committee be reformed to clarify what the Community Council wanted to happen - purely public development or a partnership with commercial interests. The Chairman accepted the proposal and said he would summon a Meeting of those involved as soon as possible.

b) Shops including 186-188 Portobello High St

The Secretary reported that he had written to the Planning Dept asking for an up to date report. "The latest information about the 'Carpet Shop' was that the Cockburn Association had commissioned architects to do a feasibility study on rehabilitating the building. Presuming that it would be economically feasible it would be open to the Council to compulsorily purchase the property and hand it over to the Association to be done up."

c) Windsor Place Lodge

"An application has been submitted to erect 15 flats on the site, and so it may not be vacant for much longer." It is understood that the application includes re-erecting the old portico.

The Secretary also reported that the Portobello Town Scheme had been approved at a Meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-committee on August 22nd for implementation in 1986/87 with some modification of the Conservation Area. The Director Planning is willing for representatives to attend a regular meeting of the CC to explain in the Autumn but suggests that a Public Meeting be deferred until the launch of the scheme in February/March 1986.

The reforming of the Planning and Amenity Committee of PADCA was also reported and although PADCA would pursue an independent line it was hoped to co-operate with the Community Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESSa) Portobello Directory

It was reported that CAB was preparing a Portobello Directory. Secretary to send a copy of the Polmont Directory for information.

b) Mr Bryce expressed the thanks of PTDA to Mrs Jenkins-Thomas and the CC for the use of the results of the Post Card Competition at the PTDA Exhibition.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the attending members of the public and to Dr Strang and the Councillors who had attended. The Next Meeting would be on September 23rd at 7.30 pm and would be the AGM of the Council