

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 37th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL ON JANUARY
27th 1986 at 7.30 pm

Chair: Mr R.L. Sinclair

Present: Mr R.M. Aitken, Mrs M. Anderson, Mrs S.S. Brown, Mr A. Bryce, Mr G.A. Cooper, Mr W. Davidson, Mr H.A. Dawson, Mrs M. Dickson, Mr D. Edwards, Mr H.E. Fitzsimmons, Mrs J. Hepburn, Mr J.D. Hosie, Mrs H. Kirsopp, Mrs C. Kilgour, Miss R.R. Lang, Mr S. Macintosh, Mr C.J.A. O'Brien, Mrs J. Scott, Mrs M.M. Shepherd, Mrs M.M. Waugh, Mrs M. Whitehead, Cllr I.J. Berry, P.C.T. McDonald. Mr McFarlane of the Planning Dept was also present.

Apologies: Mrs M.C. Amos, Dr N. Child, Mr M. Grainger, Mrs B.E. Heron, Mrs S. Hurford, Mrs M. Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs I. Thomson, Mrs S.M. Westwood, Mr W. Westwood, Dr G. Strang, MP, Cllrs K.F. Ward, P.C. Martin.

321 MINUTES OF THE 36th MEETING OF COUNCIL

Approval of the Minutes, as circulated, was proposed by Mr Bryce, seconded by Mr Hosie and AGREED.

322 TOWN SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed Mr McFarlane of the EDC Planning Dept who had agreed to describe the proposed Town Scheme.

Mr McFarlane explained that, assuming the next Planning Policy Committee meeting approved, it was hoped to begin implementing the scheme in the next financial year. The Conservation area of Portobello had been recognised as outstanding. If the scheme was approved, the EDC would put up £10,000 and a similar sum would be provided by the HBC. These sums of money would provide enough to pay 50% of the costs of improvements on a small scale such as restoring railings, replacing doors and windows to the original standards, etc. The owner would have to provide 50% of the cost and could do as much or as little to restore traditional features as he wished - if necessary applying for a grant to replace a door and coming back later for railings.

The scheme was quite unlike the usual grants where all the necessary work of restoration was expected to be done as one operation.

The Conservation area of Portobello contained some 180 listed buildings and had been divided into 2 phases. Phase I. would concentrate on the area from the Promenade to the High St and from West of Bath St to East of Marlborough St.

In reply to questions, Mr McFarlane said that, if the scheme was a success, more money might well be made available. It was hoped to send leaflets to all houses in the Conservation area and the Planning Dept would point out defects and things that needed to be done. It was hoped to have someone in Portobello at least one afternoon per week. Before and during the implementation of the scheme the Department would look closely at any applications for alterations and change of use, particularly those coming in before the Town scheme began. An example quoted by a member was that for change of use of 23A & 23B Bath St. to form an Amusement Arcade. It was not intended to include stone cleaning in the scheme as this was often damaging to the property. Tenements were not normally considered under the Scheme as they should be dealt with as a whole and other grants were already available for major works.

Mrs Kirsopp asked if publicity could be given to the required colour scheme for the area but Mr McFarlane made it clear that although they both came under the Planning Dept there was no direct link with the Town scheme. Mr McFarlane said that he and Ms N. Walker would be involved in administering the scheme and could be reached on 225-2424 Ext. 6562.

The Chairman thanked Mr McFarlane for his very clear explanation and for being so willing to answer all the questions. He invited him to return on some future occasion when the scheme was fully operational.

- 1) 316 The Secretary distributed copies of a Statement on Policing Portobello 1985-86 kindly provided by Chief Inspector Mackay. He explained that this document was an unofficial statement for the benefit of members of the Council and should not be quoted outside the Council area. It was intended for the information of organisations on the Council and individual members. It was a 'without prejudice' paper and intemperate use might embarrass the Chief Constable in the preparation of his Annual Report and would certainly damage the excellent relationship that we had with Chief Inspector Mackay.
- 2) 318(a) The Chairman welcomed Mr Macintosh on his return after his illness and invited him to clarify the position over Fun City. Mr Macintosh explained that he had now retired from running Fun City and was naturally anxious to secure the best price for the property that he could. This appeared to come from housing but anyone who wished to purchase and run Fun City was welcome to do so. He felt that the area westward of Bath St had become a dead area and people were not interested in a fair ground. He understood however that Mr Strand had applied for a licence to open a Fair Ground further along the Promenade. Mr Dawson expressed concern that the Conservation Area had been amended by an advt in the 'Scotsman' of 24th January to exclude the Fun City area - did this mean that it could be used for housing? The Secretary reported that according to the Planning Dept this change had been made to omit recent developments in Pipe St and Figgate Street and include 'Harry Lauder's Cottage'. Mrs Waugh thanked Mr Macintosh for the many years of support that he had given to the community in Portobello and this was endorsed by all present.
- 3) 318(b) The Secretary exhibited plans of the proposed development by Messrs Wimpey at the site of Windsor Place Church. It was agreed that the development seemed of poor design with no provision for parking and that the tower topped with an aluminium finial at the junction of High St and Windsor Place was not acceptable. Secretary to write accordingly.
- 4) 318(c) The application for change of use of the 'carpet shop' to licensed premises was noted. It was agreed that the Secretary object to the lack of detailed plans and express some disquiet over the possible obstruction caused by brewery lorries and clients parking.
- 5) 320(b) The Secretary reported that LRC Architectural Services had now written explaining that none of the sources approached had been willing to estimate for a "one-off" Notice Board. Catalogues from 2 firms had been attached. One firm would supply 32 ins by 42 at £334 and the other 28 x 40 at £367. He had therefore approached Scott's for an estimate and this was awaited. This action was approved. Mr Bryce drew attention to the desire of Portobello Council of Churches to erect a Notice Board and the possibility of co-operation.

324 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Treasurer reported as follows:-	General Account	£776
	Illuminations	10.55
	Tennis Courts	228.97

The sum of £150 had been transferred from General Account to Illuminations, making a total of £400. A donation for storage would also fall due. All moneys had now been received from those who had purchased sets of lights. Secretary to remind the District about the application for a grant towards the cost of the Illuminations.

325 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Illuminations

Mr Bryce expressed the view that the Christmas Illuminations had been quite outstanding. He expressed his indebtedness to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer and Mr Dawson for their assistance in dismantling the decorations from the lamp-posts. The decorations on the Town Hall would be removed very shortly. It was quite unusual that only a few bulbs had been broken. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the Evening News expressing the gratitude of the Community Council to all involved particularly the organisations and shopkeepers involved. There were no developments to report over the Promenade lights.

b) Pool-site

Mr Hosie asked for approval of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-committee on December 22nd and this was AGREED. Mr Hosie then explained that Cllr Kerevan had not supplied a copy of the Official Minute of the Meeting of the Planning and Development Sub-committee. However, this had been obtained from another source and the revised Minute did not seem to adequately express the views put forward by the Community Council. The Secretary reported that he understood a Meeting had taken place between Officials of the Region and District together with a representative of the SDA when it was reported that 'the District Council still is unclear about its intentions regarding the site..' It was also unclear how the announced proposals for District Recreation Centres tied in with use of the Pool site. The provision for Portobello is said to include a Sports Hall, Fitness Room, Multi-purpose room, changing accommodation and administration. It was agreed that the Secretary write asking for the Community Council to be consulted. It was made clear that the Community Council Code of Conduct prohibited any stronger expression of opinion.

c) Environmental Health

In the absence of Mrs Hurford the Secretary asked approval of the Note of the Meeting of the Sub-committee dated December 30th and previously circulated. In particular, he asked for approval of Mrs Hurford as Convener and of the objectives set by the Sub-committee. All present AGREED. The Secretary also reported that Mr Watson of the Environmental Health Dept of EDC had agreed to attend the Meeting on February 24th and discuss the problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT OF THE HIGH STREET

The Chairman drew attention to the 3 proposals from the Highways Dept for the treatment of the square and showed these with an overhead projector. The Community Council representatives who had met the Officials from the Highways Dept under the auspices of Vice-Convener Berry had asked for the pavement to be widened on the N. side and the maximum provision for short-time parking. This request had been reflected in the 3rd drawing. This was defective in some ways in that end on parking had been provided outside the Electric Showrooms, 2 end on places outside the Bank at Brighton Place and 15 echeloned spaces outside the Town Hall. Anxiety was also expressed over the apparent lack of Pedestrian Crossings on 2 crossings at Brighton Place/High Street. The Chairman also suggested that additional parking might be made available on 3 sides of the Town Hall. Mrs Kirsopp circulated a Report by P.A.S. on the proposals. After discussion including the suggestion of removing the yellow line on one side of the High St east of the square and the effect of parking and the resultant noise on activities within the Town Hall, Vice Convener Berry offered to arrange a Meeting between Officers of the Council, representatives of PAS and Highways Officials. The Chairman accepted the offer with gratitude. Mr Bryce proposed that the Officers be authorised to proceed on the lines outlined by the Chairman and that the PAS paper be approved and circulated. This was AGREED.

RATIONALISATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Secretary reported that Cllr Kerevan had failed to provide copies of the Health Board document to enable further discussion. He had written to the Health Council copied to the Health Board, LRC and EDC setting out the views expressed at the 36th Meeting:- "The Community Council is resolutely opposed to any closure of Maternity facilities at the Eastern General Hospital.. We recognise the desirability of increasing the provision of geriatric services but would point out that the 1981 Census showed that 27% of the population of our area was 60 and over. The provision is needed now not in some seven years."

When the Health Council had acknowledged this letter they had offered to make copies of the document available. It was agreed that copies be obtained before the next Meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESSa) Rosefield Park

Mrs Scott had been told that it was intended to replace the mature shrubs in Rosefield Park with rose trees. It was suggested that this was to prevent glue sniffing. P.C. McDonald believed this was true. Secretary to write to Parks Dept and enquire.

b) Joint Forum

The Secretary reported receipt of an invitation for the Council to participate in the Fourth Joint Forum of Community Councils. Topics include the forthcoming CC Elections and the purpose and use of EDC Liaison Committee. It was AGREED that Portobello Community Council should attend. Names and any topics for discussion to the Secretary at the next Meeting.

c) Leith Nautical College

Vice Convener Berry reported that the future of the above College had been under discussion between the Region and Central Government over the future of the College in view of the Secretary of State decision to concentrate nautical education in Glasgow. It seemed probable that the College would be transferred on 1 August 1987. Apart from the improvement that this would provide for further education facilities in the Region it was hoped that the community would be able to use the facilities for leisure and recreation provided. These included a planetarium, general purpose classrooms, games hall, swimming pool and squash courts.

The Chairman thanked Vice Convener Berry for the information and hoped that the Community Council would be kept informed of any developments as they occurred.

d) Ideas for Future Activities

Mrs Kirsopp asked how many suggestions had been received? The Secretary reported two letters, one from Mr Dawson and one from Mrs Jenkins-Thomas. If no further suggestions came in he would prepare a summary for the next Meeting.

e) Straiton Place/Marlborough St

Mrs Kirsopp said that PAS hoped to bring proposals for a small development at the above area to the next Meeting of the Community Council. The Chairman welcomed any such ideas.

The next Meeting will be in St Mark's Church Hall on Monday February 24th.