

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

from the Secretary: G.A.Cooper  
12 Brunstane Road  
Edinburgh EH15 2FY  
031-669-4048

15 May 1986

There will be a Meeting of the Community Council in St Mark's Church Hall,  
Portobello High Street, on Monday 26th May 1986 at 7.30 pm

Please make every effort to attend

## AGENDA

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the 40th Meeting held on 28th April 1986 (enclosed)
- 3) Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere
- 4) Report on Meeting to discuss Community Councils (Appendix to Minutes 39th Meeting)
- 5) Windsor Place Church
- 6) Financial Statement and Annual Accounts
- 7) Community Council Joint Forum and Elections
- 8) Sub-committee Reports (where available)
  - a) Illuminations
  - b) School Site
  - c) Environmental Health
  - d) Tennis Courts
  - e) By-pass/Centre enhancement (the final drawing should be in DMCA before the Meeting)
- 9) Rosefield Park proposals
- 10) Any Other Competent Business



Secretary

NOTE: Alex. Bryce, Convener of the Illuminations Sub-committee and member of this Council died suddenly on May 7th 1986. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family.

It is proposed to make a collection at the Meeting so that a Donation can be sent to the Chest and Heart Foundation in Memory of Mr Bryce and to the Spina Bifida Fund in Memory of Miss Nora Smith.

If you cannot be present at the Meeting, donations should be sent to the Secretary. (Cheques payable to Portobello Community Council)

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 41st MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY  
26th MAY 1986 at 7.30 pm

Chair: Mr R.L.Sinclair

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mrs M.C.Amos, Mrs M.Anderson, Mrs S.S.Brown, Mr G.A.Cooper,  
Mr H.A.Dawson, Mr H.E.Fitzsimmons, Mr M.Grainger, Mrs J.A.Hepburn, Mr J.D.Hosie,  
Mrs S.Hurford, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs H.Kirsopp, Miss R.R.Lang, Mr W.S.McDonald,  
Mr S.Macintosh, Mr C.J.A.O'Brien, Mr J.F.Renz, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs M.M.Shepherd,  
Mrs M.M.Waugh, Mrs S.M.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Cllr D.Begg, P.C.M.Thomson and  
a number of members of the public.

Apologies: Dr N.Child, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mrs C.Kilgour, Miss L.Wardrope, Mrs M.Whitehead,  
Dr G.Strang, Cllrs P.W.Nolan, K.F.Ward, K.Dodds, P.C.Martin.

357 The Chairman opened the Meeting by reminding members that only two or three  
Meetings remained before the Elections due in September. He drew attention  
to the sad loss sustained by the death of Mr Alex Bryce since the last  
meeting. A box for contributions in memory of Mr Bryce and Miss Smith had  
been provided and it was hoped to make substantial donations to the Chest  
and Heart Foundation and to the Spina Bifida Fund.

358 MINUTES OF THE 40th MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Minutes and Appendices as circulated were proposed for Approval by  
Mrs Shepherd, seconded by Mr Hosie and AGREED.

359 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

- 1) 349 The Secretary reported receipt of a letter of thanks from Mr Young  
of the Cleansing Dept. The letter reported that:
  - a) Staff operating on the beach and promenade have been  
cautioned about their speed at all times.
  - b) More metal bins are to be sited on the sand during the  
summer period for litter and glass.
  - c) A check round Towerbank showed that the area was  
relatively clean and tidy other than the play area  
which is the responsibility of LRC. The Area Supervisor  
is to pay particular attention to this area.
  - d) A litter receptacle is to be put on the north side at  
the foot of Bath St. Any other sites to be suggested.
- 2) 350(3) The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Assistant  
City Librarian stating that, at present, the upper floor of Portobello  
was unusable due to builderwork in connection with the new heating  
system. When this work is completed, possibly in the autumn, we  
would welcome the use of the upstairs room for community purposes  
and for meetings of the Community Council as you suggest.

360 REPORT ON MEETING TO DISCUSS FINANCING OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Mr O'Brien drew attention to the report circulated with the Minutes of the  
39th Meeting and the Note of the Meeting circulated with the Minutes of the  
40th. He explained that there had been an informal discussion as to how  
Community Councils were managing financially and various options for funding  
had been discussed. After initial wariness on the part of various Councils  
the discussion had ranged widely and Councillor Hastie had given an assurance  
that the level of funding for 1986/87 would be the same as that for 1985/86.

During discussion of Mr O'Brien's Report anxiety was expressed that the  
Council did not communicate sufficiently with the people of Portobello. The  
Chairman felt that the least we could do was to produce a review of the  
last 4 years work and circulate it to all households, this would be an  
expensive exercise, purchase of a photocopier would make this cheaper but the  
problem would then arise as to where this could be kept. /

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It was also noted that although Portobello had one of the highest financial turnovers, the balances at the end of each year were not very high. Mr Westwood felt that the Council were out of touch with the people of Portobello and suggested that a surgery in the Town Hall might be the answer.

The Chairman asked Mr O'Brien to continue to represent the Council at further discussions with the District Council and thanked him for his Report.

It was agreed that the Officers would consider setting up a Publicity Sub-committee before the June Meeting and report back.

361 a) FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer explained that the Annual Accounts were still with the Auditor. Unfortunately, Mr Herd had been very busy of late and had not yet completed the Audit. Mr O'Brien distributed copies of the unaudited accounts and enlarged on various items, Illuminations had been the biggest expense and in 3 years over £10,000 had been disbursed. The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the whole Council to Mr O'Brien for the way that he handled the financial affairs of the Community. All present approved.

The Treasurer reported that the District Council Grant for 1986/87 of £950.82 had been received so that the General Account held

	£1471.43
Illuminations	9.90
Joppa Tennis Courts	195.71

- b) Mr Cooper drew attention to a deficiency in the Constitution in that the position of the Treasurer was not properly defined. He proposed a Motion "All expenditure is subject to approval by the Community Council. All orders to suppliers must be placed in writing and bear the signature of the Treasurer of the Council. All suppliers to be notified, in writing, as convenient, that any order that does not bear such a signature will not be honoured. The Treasurer has authority to disburse up to £100 for any necessary purpose but expenditure over that amount requires the approval of Council." The Chairman seconded the Motion and it was AGREED without dissent.

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WINDSOR PLACE CHURCH

Mr Hosie explained that the Chairman had asked Mr Cooper to get in touch with Bell Ingram, the Agents for the property. He had explained that the Community Council had reason to believe that the application for demolition and erection of flats was likely to be turned down by the Planning Authority and enquired whether the Community Council should attempt to obtain a grant to take over the existing building for Community use.

The replies had been:-

- a) No other firm was still interested in purchase unless demolition had been granted.
- b) Bell Ingram was contracted to sell to Wimpey if the application was successful. If not they understood the offer would lapse and B.T. would have to consider the position.
- c) In view of comments about parking they would suggest demolishing to provide parking for B.T. vehicles. In 2 or 3 years time the site might then prove surplus to requirements.
- d) The price range is £45000 to £55000. It might be available for community use at the lower end of that range.
- e) They feared that the SDA or STB would not make a grant in view of the present state of the structure with slippage and extensive dry rot. They felt that the Church was built down to a price not up to a specification and that Architects would recommend demolition. The halls were a better proposition.
- f) The duty of Bell Ingram was to their clients B.T. and they would resent any suggestion that the premises had not been marketed with diligence and application. If any such suggestion was made they would take appropriate action.



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The Chairman had felt it right to try and discover the true situation. He felt that the subject should now be left until the Report requested from the Planning Dept had been received and the decision of the Planning Cttee known.

Mr Rentz said that when architects seemed divided on the merit of the housing proposed it seemed impossible to know at Community Council level. The matter had been extensively discussed and voted on, certainly the state of the premises was no credit to Portobello or churches in the area.

Attention was also drawn to the proposals for 8 houses on the site of Scotts workshop and garage at 53 Windsor Place. It was agreed that the Secretary check the plans with particular reference to Christian Path and object if he felt it necessary.

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#### COMMUNITY COUNCIL JOINT FORUM AND ELECTIONS

The Secretary reported that he had attended the Joint Forum on April 26th together with Mr Hosie and Mr O'Brien. 17 Community Councils from Edinburgh District had been represented. Items covered included:-

- a) Relations with the media with Mr Ken Smart of the Evening News. He felt that C.C.s failed to canvass public opinion properly and failed to publicise their activities. Several Councils complained, in reply, of inaccuracies and poor headlines.
- b) Cllr Kinloch, Chairman of the District Council Sub-committee for grants, spoke about the Meeting reported at 360 above and emphasised the District's commitment to continued support of Community Councils.
- c) Various representatives were then given an opportunity to speak on matters of local concern. Mr Cooper spoke on 'dog fouling' and the talk and questions ran on so that there was no time for Mr Hosie to speak about the Pool Site. However, various Councils assured us of their support for a Leisure Centre in Portobello.
- d) The Meeting ended with an in-depth discussion with Mrs Netta Sinclair on the subject of Elections due in September. It was agreed at the Forum that we should recommend to our Councils that a common date of September 23rd be set for the Elections and that a request would be made to Mrs Sinclair to co-ordinate a joint advertisement. Councils in agreement with this would request the District Council asking them to provide Nomination Forms, ballot boxes, punches, copies of the Electoral Roll, etc and to finance the cost of effective advertising.
- e) What we have to do:-
  - i) appoint a Returning Officer—a respected member of the community, familiar with elections, and not a candidate for Election.
  - ii) If sufficient candidates came forward, arrange for a Polling Station or stations and find sufficient Polling Clerks—possibly by borrowing from a neighbouring Council.
  - iii) Agree upon a Time Table that might run—
    - Publicity, city and local from 21 July including telling people where Nomination Forms will be available
    - Notice of Election— August 12th
    - Closing of Nominations — August 26th
    - Closing of Registration of Local Interest Groups—August 26th
    - Notice of Poll, if required — September 9th
    - Polling — 23 September and 24th and 25th if necessary
    - Meeting of Local Interest Groups for Election—September 30th
    - First Meeting of NEW Council — September 30th

Existing Local Interest Groups will have to re-register but will receive a written invitation from Mrs Sinclair to do so.

- f) It had been suggested that an Election might require up to £500 of expenditure and it was recommended that each Council should budget for such a sum.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cooper for his explanation and invited comments from the members. After discussion it was agreed that:-

- A) Councillor Alexander be asked to be the Returning Officer as he was a Cllr for a Ward outside the area and a local resident.  
 B) Polling should be on September 23rd at one venue preferably the Town Hall and open all day.  
 C) The Secretary should write to Mrs Sinclair proposing the time table and asking for District Council co-ordination and financial and material support.  
 D) That the present Council should meet early in September to consider final arrangements and if sufficient nominations had been received, etc.

#### SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### a) Illuminations

The Treasurer reported that the lights on the Promenade had now been fitted with new cable and replacement 25 watt bulbs, 800 at 45p would be required and 378 plastic covers at 68p, a total cost of some £600. Some surprise was expressed that it had not been possible to re-use some of the covers. Mr O'Brien to take this up with Northern Lights.

The Chairman raised the question of a donation to Old Parish and Windsor Place Church for the storage of the Christmas Illuminations. It was AGREED that a donation of £30 be made and a letter of thanks sent.

Due to the death of Mr Bryce it was necessary to find a new Convener for the Sub-committee. Mrs Westwood proposed and Mrs Waugh seconded the appointment of Mr O'Brien and all AGREED.

The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Administration Dept of Edinburgh District Council intimating that a grant of £500 had been made towards the costs of providing lighting on Portobello Promenade and Christmas illuminations 1985. The Secretary was asked to express the gratitude of the Community Council.

##### b) Pool Site

Mrs Westwood distributed copies of a draft paper "Ambitions for Portobello 1986 - A Plea for Joint Action". She explained that this was for discussion and asked that it be distributed to Organisations in Portobello and taken by members to their parent Associations. It was agreed that all comments should be returned to Mrs Westwood by June 14th. It was made clear that these were not put forward as proposals by the Community Council but as a basis for discussion. Mrs Jenkins-Thomas expressed anxiety that any such proposals might jeopardise action being taken by the District Council. However, it was pointed out that the Community Council had no information about any action contemplated by the District.

##### c) Environmental Health

Mrs Hurford reported that she understood that the gates were being restored to Brighton Park and Notices were to be put up at entrances to the Promenade.

##### d) Joppa Tennis Courts

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that the Management Committee had met on May 25th and had appointed a Supervisor for for half time and were still looking for another helper. The Secretary reported that the District Council had denied ownership of the footpath between Dalkeith St and the Courts. He was checking with the City Assessor. Agreement for renewal of the Lease had been received.

##### e) By-pass/Centre Enhancement

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Begg to the Meeting and asked him to bring the Council up to date. Cllr Begg said that the By-pass was now behind schedule and was unlikely to be opened until early 1987.

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e) Cllr Begg also spoke with some anxiety of the position of the residents of Baileyfield Rd. He understood, that although their houses had suffered a lot of structural damage, compensation would only be due for damage caused after March 1986.

The Secretary drew attention to the reported intention of British Rail to reconstruct the main line railway bridge in Milton Rd East during 1987 to allow the electrification of the line. Cllr Begg agreed to investigate.

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#### ROSEFIELD PARK PROPOSALS

The Secretary reported on a publicity meeting in Rosefield Park that he had attended, together with Mrs Scott. Dr Strang and Cllrs Lazarowicz and Kerevan had been present with Mr Temple of Special Measures. A plan had been provided to illustrate the proposed expenditure of £46,000. A letter from the Asst Director of the Dept of Recreation dated April 18th contained the statement "When final decisions have been made I understand that it is the intention of Cllr Kerevan to organise consultative meetings with local Residents Associations, Amenity Groups and Community Councils...." It was confirmed by the representatives of Brighton Residents, P.A.S., P.A.D.C.A. that no consultations had been organised and certainly the Community Council had not been consulted.

Concern was expressed at the lack of any consultation and it was agreed that the Secretary write to the District Council copies to Br. Res. PAS and PADCA to try and arrange for someone to come to the next Meeting. Although it was recognised that flood works would destroy the tennis courts it was still felt that tennis and putting was an amenity needed in a holiday town. Anxiety was also expressed over the lack of lighting of the paths.

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#### ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

##### a) Proposals for Improvement Straiton Place

A Report on the proposals of the Special Measures Dept for this area was received. The first phase might cost £12626 and the full scheme £30,000 to £40,000.

Council regretted that this information had not come direct to the Community Council and fears expressed over what other plans Special Measures had for Portobello. Secretary to write and ask for information. It was AGREED that the recommendation at (7) of the PAS Report be approved.

b) Proposals from Mrs Gil Anderson for a First Aid Post on the Promenade were deferred to the next meeting.

##### c) Closure of Indoor Pool until July

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas asked that Technical Services be written to for information and this was approved.

##### d) P.T.D.A.

Mrs Shepherd asked about the position and representation of PTDA now that Mr Bryce had died. The Chairman expressed his willingness to hear any spokesperson they might send but explained the Constitutional position.

##### e) Portobello Halt

It was agreed to enquire as to progress.

##### f) Application for Change of use to Hostel, 33 Abercorn Terrace

It was agreed that the Council viewed the proposal with concern. Cllr Begg said that both he and Cllr Kerevan opposed the change of use and found the way that the unemployed were being exploited very objectionable.

##### g) Football at foot of Pipe St

Mr Macintosh drew attention to the bad conduct of boys playing football outside these public toilets. Secretary to notify Police.

h) Proposals for conduct of Public Meetings (PAS) and Constitutional Position as set out by Secretary : ON the proposal of Mr Dawson this to be on next Agenda.

Next Meeting: St Mark's Hall, June 23rd.