

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 42nd MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY

23rd JUNE 1986 at 7.30 pm

Chair: Mr J.D.Hosie

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mrs S.S.Brown, Mr G.A.Cooper, Mr H.A.Dawson, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mrs S.Hurford, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs H.Kirsopp, Mrs C.Kilgour, Mr C.J.A.O'Brien, Mrs M.M.Shepherd, Mrs I.Thomson, Cllrs D.Begg, P.C.Martin, P.S.D.Graham and some members of the public.

Apologies: Mrs M.C.Amos, Mrs M.Anderson, Dr N.Child, Mr M.Grainger, Mrs J.Hepburn, Mr J.F.Renz, Mrs J.Scott, Mr R.L.Sinclair, Mrs M.M.Waugh, Mrs S.M.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Dr G.Strang, M.P., Cllrs P.W.Nolan, K.F.Ward, K.Dodds, G.Kerevan, W.Herald.

367 After a period of 10 minutes the Chair pointed out that the Meeting was not quorate and it was AGREED that discussion should take place although no decisions could be reached.

368 MINUTES OF THE 41st MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Minutes and Appendices as circulated were proposed for Approval by Mrs Jenkins-Thomas, seconded by Mrs Shepherd and AGREED.

369 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

- 1) 359(2) The Secretary reported that he had now seen the room on the first floor of the Portobello Library and it would be ideally suited for Meetings of the Community Council. Consultations were going on through Mr Sandeman on access and, more importantly, egress.
- 2) 364(e) The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from Cllr Begg covering certain items arising from the Minutes:-
 - 1) The road bridge at Milton Rd E. will be raised sometime in 1987 to allow the east coast main line of B.R. to be electrified, however it has still not been indicated by B.R. when this will take place.
 - 2) Lothian Region Highways Dept have indicated that it is highly unlikely that Milton Rd will have to be closed at this point to road traffic. One-directional traffic working will be in operation when construction work is being carried out on the bridge and this should not pose too many problems because traffic volume on Milton Rd. E. will be severely reduced because the Portobello By-Pass will be in full operation by this time.
British Rail intend to electrify sections of the Edinburgh Suburban Line including work on the railway running beneath the ASDA North roundabout. LRC Highway officials had assured Cllr Begg that this work will not entail closure of the ASDA roundabout at any time.
 - 3) Cllr Begg had had enquired into the position of residents of Baileyfield Rd over reported structural damage and enclosed a letter from the Dept of Highways making it clear that 'all damage to property occasioned by the works since the start of the contract by Messrs Miller in June 1985 will be made good by and at the expense of the Regional Council. The arbiter will be Messrs Peter Fraenkel Leslie and Reid.'

Cllr Begg was thanked for this and other information provided on items discussed by the Community Council and it was agreed that a space be normally provided on the Agenda for a Regional Report.

3) 366(a)

- 369 3)366(a) No reply had been received from Special Measures
- (c) Technical Services had explained that the delay over opening Portobello Baths was due to the discovery of further asbestos within the ventilation system. It was understood that the opening would now be on July 1st.
- (f) The Secretary had registered an objection to the change of use at 33 Abercorn Terrace.
- 4)350(1) The Community Council Notice Board was now in position and in use.
- 5)323(4) The application for change of use of the 'carpet shop' had been rejected.
- 6)362 PAS reported that it was understood that the plans for flats at the Scotts Workshop site had been sent back to the designers. The Secretary reported that they would not encroach on Christian Path.

370 PUBLICITY, ELECTIONS, ETC

The Secretary reported that the Time-table for Elections as set out in the Minutes at 363 had been agreed with Mrs Sinclair and it was understood that most if not all Community Councils would join in. Discussions on the mechanics of Elections and of Funding were scheduled for July 1st and 2nd. It was agreed that Mr Hosie, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Kirsopp and Dr Child would attend the Meeting on July 1st and the first two on July 2nd. Unfortunately it had not been possible to find out whether the Chairman, was able to get in touch with Cllr Alexander about the office of Returning Officer. It was AGREED that the filling of the Office be remitted to the Officers if Cllr Alexander was unable to accept.

It was also AGREED that the Town Hall be booked all day on September 23rd as Polling Station.

371 ROSEFIELD PARK

The Secretary reported that there had been no response to his letters to the Special Measures Division of the Dept of Recreation, etc. It was understood that the decision over Rosefield Park was now an Act of Council. The Secretary was instructed to write to Cllr Lazarowicz expressing the distress of the Council over the absence of consultation and copy to Mr Horsfall, Cllr Kerevan and Mrs Sinclair. Cllr Begg said that he understood that Cllr Kerevan was very keen on the scheme for flood prevention but had an open mind over many of the details. Mrs Hurford felt that a well lit path through the park would help to cut back on vandalism. It was agreed that the letters be copied to Ch. Insp. Mackay for his comments.

372 FINANCE

The Treasurer reported that a copy of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1986 should have been circulated to all members with the Minutes and Agenda. Apart from a minor adjustment to the record for Joppa Tennis Courts they are as circulated in draft form at the last Meeting.

The Notice Board has now been erected outside the Police Station, and the invoice received for the sum of £240. The sum allocated at the Meeting on March 24th 1986 was £210, however this did not take into account provision of a painted Community Council heading or the inner baize backing. The Treasurer recommended approval of the revised estimate. Mrs Shepherd seconded and it was AGREED.

The Financial position after payment for the Notice Board is:-

General Account	£1,068.89
Illuminations Account	£ 479.90
Joppa Tennis Courts A/C	£ 145.71

Following the collection taken up at the last meeting, donations of £30 each have been made to the Chest and Heart Association in memory of the late Alex. Bryce and the Spina Bifida Association in memory of the late Nora Smith.

a) Illuminations

Mr O'Brien reported that the full Sub-committee met on June 3rd to discuss a number of pressing matters.

Promenade Illuminations

As previously reported, there has been a major problem with the festoon cable originally supplied, and after much discussion between the Supplier and the Manufacturer it was agreed that the entire cable be replaced. A strict condition made by the Supplier was that any lamps or plastic covers replaced would be chargeable to the Community Council. After close investigation it was determined that less than 30% of the lamps in place were still working and more than 50% of the plastic covers were missing. In practical terms we had no alternative but to replace all the lamps at the same time and purchase sufficient covers. This work has now been completed and the lights are in full working order. We have been advised by Messrs Northern Light that the cost to the Community Council will be as follows:-

660 25 watt lamps @ 45p	= £297
378 plastic covers @ 68p	= £257
	<u>£554</u>

It should be borne in mind that for this expenditure we have achieved complete renewal of the Promenade lights in good time for the Summer. As advised at the last meeting, a grant of £500 has been made by the District Council towards the Illuminations and the net shortfall will thus be in the region of £100. The Council is thus asked to ratify the expenditure of £554 and make a Grant from General Funds of £100.

An official Switching-On Ceremony had been arranged for Sunday June 29th at 5.30 pm at the foot of Marlborough St in co-operation with the organisers of the Victorian Splash. It was hoped that Miss Fay Lenore would perform the Ceremony and the Stage, P.A. system and Marquee erected for the Victorian Splash event would be used. It had been agreed that limited hospitality would be extended to the celebrity and members of the Community Council. The switch-on would be publicised in the Evening News, Advertiser and on Radio Forth and Scotland.

The Sub-committee recommended that a Maintenance Agreement be sought with Messrs Northern Light and they had been invited to submit a suitable contract covering an initial period of 3 years. When received this will require to be considered at a future meeting.

Christmas Illuminations

It was agreed that a broad policy covering the forthcoming Christmas lights should be established, and that preparatory work commence as soon as possible. The general view was that we should build on what we have at present, enhance the existing displays and increase the number of strung lights. We would require financial support in connection with the erection and removal of the lights, and it was agreed that we should apply now to the District Council and Regional Council for Grant Aid. We should also encourage more Traders to mount their own displays, and it was agreed that a suitable letter be prepared and submitted for approval in due course.

Finally, it was recommended that the new Council be asked to consider as a matter of urgency, alternative ways to continue the successful Illuminations programme.

b) Pool Site/Ambitions for Portobello

In the absence of Mrs Westwood, Mr Dawson reported that of 40 copies of the proposals for Portobello distributed at the last Council Meeting only 3 replies had been received. He appealed for more response from all organisations in Portobello to enable the draft to be re-written. Members felt that care was needed to emphasise the problems of the Pool site and its future. Cllr Martin thought that the District Council Capital Estimates included provision of £300,000 for demolition of the present buildings.

c) Joppa Tennis Courts

373 c) Jonna Tennis Courts

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that the Courts had opened on June 21st, a Supervisor had been appointed for opening during the holidays. It was to organise a childrens putting competition and various other events. It was understood that later a large section of fencing and supports would need repair and the courts macadamed again. It was feared that this could cost four figures and ways of obtaining this sort of money were being considered.

The Secretary drew attention to an article in the Portobello Reporter about 'Top Marks Youth Club' and emphasised that the terms of lease precluded the taking of block bookings to the exclusion of the general public. It was also agreed that the question of applying for a grant for necessary repairs be considered.

374 ANXIETIES OF MEMBERS

It was agreed that discussion of this item be deferred to a quorate meeting.

375 FIRST AID POST

The letter from Mrs Anderson enclosed with the Agenda was fully discussed. All agreed that the idea of a First Aid Post was desirable. It was agreed that an application for grant be made, that Edinburgh Dist. Council be asked to re-instate the previous cover and that the advice of Mr W. Hill of Community Education be sought on application to various Trusts.

376 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

a) Postcard Competition

Mrs Jenkins-Thomas reported that she had been in touch with the Company publishing the cards. Their salesman had sold 6000 cards of the 3 winning entries but a print run required 9000. In consultation with Mr Sinclair, the Chairman, the purchase of an extra 3000 at a cost of £130 had been agreed. She emphasised that there was no intention to sell these cards in competition with the local traders but make them available for purchase to those traders who had been missed by the salesman.

b) Community Council Resource Centre

The Secretary reported that he had attended several meetings of an ad-hoc Committee set up by the Community Council Forum to consider the provision of a Resource Centre to promote and support Community Councils in Edinburgh. It had been agreed to recommend to parent Community Councils that an application be made to Voluntary Community Services for a grant to set up such a Centre employing 3 people at an estimated overall cost of £1,320 for a year. The Secretary emphasised that the only cost to the Council should be in payments for services received. The Meeting approved the application.

377 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to arrange a Meeting for September 2nd but authority was given to call a Meeting in August if such a course seemed to be necessary.