

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 49th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE GEORGE
BINCO AND SOCIAL CLUB, BATH STREET, 11/2/87.

Chair. Mr H W Shepherd

Present. C Alexander, HJ Alexander-Bowen, M Amos, G Anderson,
K Angelosanto, C Begg, IJ Berry, E Brownlee, M Child,
G Cooper, R D'Arcy, W Davidson, H Dawson, W Henderson,
E Heron, S Hurford, F Jones, C Kilgour, H Kirsopp, R Lang,
A McDonald, V Middleton, A Murray, J Scott, HW Shepherd,
MM Shepherd, R Sinclair, P Tansey, I Thomson, H Waugh,
F Wraith.

Ex Officio. Cllr D Begg, Cllr K Ward, Cllr D Alexander, Cllr G
Kerevan, PC Jeffrey.

Co-opted. Mr C J O'Brien

Apologies. T Blore, K Robertson, A Strachan, H Wanless, S M West-
wood, W Westwood, Dr G Strang MP,

2/020 Mr Shepherd opened the meeting and introduced Mr R Paxton from
the Highways Department. Mr Paxton explained that it had been
necessary to promote the closing order to initiate the whole
complex process of negotiation. Nothing irrevocable had been
done yet and this was merely the first phase of a lengthy
legal process. Consequently no public consultation had yet
taken place but it would in the fulness of time.
Traffic monitoring indicated some 1300 vehicles of assorted
types using the road daily. Since the bypass opened this
figure had dropped to around 1600.

Cllr Begg said that LRC did not wish to close any road and
pass the problems onto other areas but inconvenience to
motorists took second place to other matters such as road
and pedestrian safety. Cllr Begg reiterated that there was no
question of LRC ignoring local opinion or failing to consult
fully with the public. That process has only just started. He
proposed that since the bridge had to come down no matter what
that this period should be used as an experiment and the effects
monitored.

If the region ask BR to replace the bridge with a different
structure the extra cost would have to be borne by the region.
A direct 'one for one' replacement would be funded by BR.
Many members of the public expressed various concerns if the
closure were to be made permanent. Emergency vehicle access
seemed to be high on the list. The point was made that what-
ever alternative route was chosen it would increase the
danger to children in particular, as all the alternative routes
had there drawbacks such as parks, tennis courts etc.

Various alternatives to closure were suggested such as banning
heavy vehicles apart for access, banning right turns into the
road from Filton Road, traffic lights on the bridge, making
the road one way. Sleeping Policemen were discounted as they
are illegal in Scotland. A petition from the residents had
been received which indicated that some 36% of the residents
were in favour of closure.

Chairman asked those present to vote for and against the
closure to give us some indication of the mood. For, 51
against, 79. Therefore, of those who expressed a preference,
the clear majority are in favour of the road remaining open
to through traffic.

A short break was taken at this point to allow those who wished to
leave to do so.

H W Shepherd

- 2/021 Minutes of the 48th meeting. The secretary apologised for the omission of PC Jeffrey from the list of those present at the 48th meeting. With that correction the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed, X Angelosanto, Seconded, A Murray.
- 2/022 Matters arising and correspondence. Secretary pointed out that to read all the available correspondence for the period would take all night and he proposed to deal only with those matters currently before council. It was suggested that all correspondence be photocopied and placed in the library for members use. Secretary pointed out that this would be rather expensive and our present financial state would not allow it. Cllr Kerevan said that the library may feel able to offer us this facility as a community service. Secretary will investigate. Secretary reported that he had written again to Mr Bir regarding his illegal sign boards but with no reply. Mrs Kirsopp also indicated that PAS had had a similar experience but an approach to 'Red Giant' on a similar matter had been successful. Cllr Kerevan suggested that perhaps the wider community may like to increase the pressure on Mr Bir. The secretary had written to G Strang MP expressing our solidarity in his campaign to have the freightliner terminal saved. Cllr Begg said that he was travelling to London the next day for a meeting with Dr Strang and BR. He was formally asked to take with him a unanimous plea for the retention of this valuable industrial facility. No further progress had been made with Dr Reid and his application for Straiton Place. On a motion from Dr Child, seconded by Mrs Scott, the secretary was asked to write and clarify our position and to re-offer the alternative sites in an attempt to overcome the impasse.
- 2/023 Sub-committee reports. See attached.
- 2/024 Finance. Treasurer reported balances of :- General account, £16.56 Illuminations, £190.95 (£178.66 to be paid from this) Joppa Tennis courts £202.97. The sum of £100 had been transferred from the tennis courts account to the general account to allow the council to function. The treasurer pointed out that any funding or grant applications made to other bodies on behalf of any sub-committees MUST be made through him. Can we remind you that grateful as we are to Mr O'Brien for his sterling efforts on our behalf, we really must find a replacement for him soon. Anyone who is interested in taking over please contact any of the officers at, or before, the next meeting. Don't be alarmed at the seeming complexity of the task as Colin has promised to assist the incumbent for the first few months or so.
- 2/025 Any other business. Council noted that Towerbank school had won a ski-ing trophy recently and the secretary was asked to write and congratulate those concerned. A member of the public drew councils' attention to the lack of sand on the beach. This has been caused by the sand drifting westwards. Cllr Begg said that the highways department had been made aware of the problem and would take the appropriate measures. Attention was drawn to an article in the 'Reporter' on the use of the promenade for cycling. The pressure group 'Spokes' were advocating that the prom be part of a recognised cycle track. Previous council had dealt with this matter and Mr Sinclair was asked for his thoughts on the matter. It was felt by some present

present/

that Spokes would be aware of the recent elections to council and may be hoping to exploit any possible change of mind. The matter was referred to a future agenda.

Mrs Anderson asked that the file on the possible first aid post be retrieved and brought forward for discussion.

Chairman reported that the officers had spoken to the Economic Development and Estates committee of the District council on Tuesday, 10/2/87. Information had been received by the officers that a fresh offer for the pool site had been made by Fairclough Construction which appeared to be more in line with what the community had been seeking. ie a leisure and recreational facility with no retail implications. We succeeded in asking the council to treat this offer on an equitable basis with the other two viz Walker and Lawfield. Cllr Kerevan still insisted that no firm financial commitment had been made by Fairclough and that the offer was still "pretty pictures". However, our information is that a financial package is currently being prepared and the end product envisages the following elements :-

- i) a district council owned and managed sports/leisure centre.
 - ii) a hotel of around fifty bedrooms with conference facilities.
 - iii) a multi-plex cinema.
 - iv) a privately owned leisure/snooker complex with childrens area.
- Fairclough are negotiating with various parties and progress is described as good. We are confident that if they get the go-ahead from EDC, Fairclough will build a first class facility that goes a long way to-ward what the community as a whole have sought for so long.

2/026 Date and place of next meeting. March, 9th 1987. Library.

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2/023 Sub-committee reports.

Illuminations.

We hope to have a meeting of the sub-committee soon to review our situation and examine ways of expanding the programme. New members of council may not be aware that the sub-committee work year round as we are also responsible for the lights on the prom. It is hoped to increase these particular lights at either end of the present display. Before we do that of course, we need to find the money. We should also be thinking about the environmental improvements planned for the High Street with a view to incorporating some form of basic light display.

Entertainments.

Sub-committee are hoping to maximise use of the Town Hall as the events there will only be continued if they are supported. There will be events at Easter and during the Spring Fling sponsored by the District council.

Karen Angelosanto will act as link person with the Fringe at the Seaside and Bob Sinclair will liase with the PTDA.

It is hoped to organise a five a side football competition during the Spring fling with the winners going on to the city wide finals. Working with a local writers group and hoping to attract funding forthcoming dates at the Town Hall. March 3rd, Scottish Ballet March 26th, Scottish Chamber Orchestra sponsored by Towerbank PTA.

Environmental Health.

Mrs Hurford reported that nothing of major importance had taken place but she felt that the information on waste re-cycling received from the secretary would make a good agenda item for the future. Secretary replied that it had been re-cycled to the sub-committee anyway! Will keep this matter in mind for the future.

Elderly/Disabled.

Council of Churches are hoping to set up a day centre one day a week and would appreciate volunteers. It is difficult to get going for a variety of reasons and the initial thrust must be to identify what is needed.

Jonpa Tennis Courts.

No report as there has been no action since last season, but a meeting will be held shortly - hopefully before the next full council meeting and a report submitted then.

HW SWB