

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

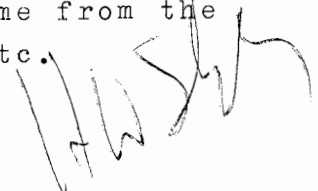
Minutes of the 52nd meeting held in St Marks Church Hall on Monday May 11th.

Chair Mr H W Shepherd

Present. Mr Alexander-Bowen, MC Amos, G Anderson, K Angelosanto, C Begg, IJ Berry, T Blore, E Brownlee, M Child, G A Cooper, R D'Arcy, H A Dawson, W Henderson, BE Heron, S Hurford, C Kilgour, H Kirsopp, A McDonald, V Middleton, AT Murray, J Scott, HW Shepherd, MM Shepherd, AL Strachan, P Tansey, I Thomson, H Wanless, SM Westwood, W Westwood, F Wraith.

Ex Officio Cllr D Begg, Cllr D Alexander, Cllr G Kerevan.

Apologies Dr G Strang, P Martin, C Alexander, W Davidson, F Jones R Sinclair, CJO'Brien.

- 2/044 Mr Cooper observed that a motion made had not been noted and asked that all motions be noted for the record. Mrs Westwood asked that the position of ex officio members be made clear to them in relation to speaking at meetings. With these observations the minutes were held to be a true record of the meeting. Proposed Mrs Westwood, Seconded Mr Cooper.
- 2/045 The secretary referred to 2/036 'Gay Scotland' and said that since the matter had been resolved by EDC no further action was needed.
- 2/042 Toddlers Hut. Cllr Begg had been happy to give an assurance that the hut was not under threat. Bath Street annexe. Work taking place was to provide better access for the disabled and new toilets and should be completed shortly.
- St Johns parking. Secretary had written to Police and asked that the situation be monitored. Police replied that they would continue to watch the situation.
- Correspondence. The coat of arms from the power station had been the subject of an article in the 'News' and EDC were writing to CC to ask for suggestions on where to put it. Two planning applications had been the subject of letters received and the secretary asked for councils permission to pursue these and act as necessary.
- Letter from Fraserburgh CC re under age drinking. Will circulate with these minutes (enclosed) for comment.
- EDC were to hold an open day at the City Chambers to which members were invited.
- Dog fouling was still causing concern and the Environmental Health department were giving some thought to our suggestion for dog free zones.
- Secretary had written to Recreation to ask for reinstatement of putting green at Rosefield Park.
- EDC have denied funding to CC resource centre it was proposed that we donate £50.00 towards this. Granted with no dissent.
- 2/046 Finance. There was no change in the position but the treasurer will comment on the accounts in June.
- 2/047 Sub committee reports. see attached.
- 2/048 The chairman introduced the position as envisaged by the officers and asked the secretary to fill in the detail. The secretary reported that EDC still required to take the initiative and that as things stood the CC could not accept overall financial responsibility for the project. The basis of the plan was for the existing buildings to be utilised as the base of any development. Funding would come from the various public agencies, SDA, Tourist Board etc.
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The challenge facing the CC was to come up with a plan which the district council would have to accept and progress. To stand any chance of success the scheme would have to be backed and supported from all angles within EDC - politicians and technical staff.

The officers envisage a multi-purpose leisure orientated facility catering for all aspects of the leisure/recreation market. It is important that an open mind be kept in order that every aspect be explored.

The unique feature of this plan is rather than have one developer on site, the managing agency would oversee the construction of the facility and lease out parts of it to individual operators who would be responsible for their own operation within the complex.

We had been given a limited timescale by EDC and there was a great deal of work to be done in a relatively short space of time. Far from knowing all the answers, we weren't even aware of some of the questions yet.

Mr Westwood wanted to know why we were letting EDC off the hook since development of the site was clearly their responsibility in line with their election promises. In reply to that point the secretary said that EDC were far from off the hook since they would still require to progress the plans.

Mrs Hurford asked for Cllr Kerevan to give his views. Cllr Kerevan re-affirmed the commitment of EDC to recreational use of the site. However they had been unable to attract a suitable developer. The CC idea has a great deal of merit provided the funds can be mobilised from the projected sources. EDC could get round the present restrictions on borrowing by transferring ownership of the site to a private company set up for that purpose and borrowing against the value of the site. However they must be able to prove that there is a viable end use.

Mr Blore was happy to hear that EDC were not serious about Meadowbank Thistle and in his view the site must provide a year round attraction and be open to all.

Cllr Kerevan was sure that the officials at EDC were doing all in their power to resolve the issue and that they would help all they could.

Mr Westwood asked why EDC had not offered a rent free period to potential developers as he felt that that would be attractive. Cllr Kerevan replied that it had been tried but the only response had been from fairground operators who weren't felt suitable for the site. But if a suitable proposition came forward EDC would try again.

Cllr Ward asked what had happened to the previous plan submitted by the previous CC. Mr Cooper added that three copies of that plan had been submitted and had all apparently disappeared without trace. Cllr Kerevan replied that the CC had backed off from that plan for legal reasons and not EDC. Cllr Ward commented that the timescale seemed short and supported by Mr Strachan asked that it be increased.

Mr McDonald pointed out that with the district elections next year the political will should be there to find a solution. Cllr Kerevan again said that EDC remain committed to a leisure development and hoped that all parties would agree to that. For the benefit of new members it was agreed to make copies of the previous plan available. (In the library)

Mr Strachan asked if, in the meantime, something couldn't be done to smarten the site up a bit, even a coat of paint.

Motion from Mr Strachan, seconded by Mr Blore, that EDC be asked to keep the site in good repair.

Motion from Mrs Scott, seconded by Mrs Anderson, that the pool sub-committee be reconvened.

After some debate the motions were amalgamated to read that the sub-committee be reformed and that EDC be asked to take reasonable steps to keep the site in good repair. No dissent.

2/049 Secretary reported that he and Mrs Murray were currently organising a 'fun run' to raise funds for the toddlers hut on Wednesday 24th June and asked for the support of council. Mrs Murray will be running and appealed for sponsors. Cllr Kerevan was clearly heard to challenge Cllr Begg to enter - and run. Council agreed to support this venture. Concern was expressed that although the sign boards at Brighton Place had come down the supports were still there. Mr Westwood asked what the position was in regard to the annexe in Bath Street and its' proposed use as a community centre. Cllr Begg replied that the figures used by the Education department showed that the school roll was falling but the school and the PTA dispute this. In any event no final decision would be made until the position was clear. The region were currently evaluating their buildings in the area to see which would be most suitable for a community centre. Funds have now been allocated for the new sports hall at Towerbank and the road would be moved to ensure the safety of the pupils using the new facility.

2/050 Next meeting. June 15th at St Marks.

Report from Pool Site sub committee.

The sub committee met to consider in some depth the basic plan outlined by the officers at the May meeting. As a first step it was agreed to further examine the implications of setting up a company limited by guarantee to develop the project. Other options including pressurising the district council to develop the site were discussed and discarded as being unlikely to achieve any positive result.

HWG

Financial report as at 31/5/87.

General Account	£485.89
Illuminations	£ 12.19
Joppa TC	£189.97

Sub-committee reports.

Frail elderly.

A meeting has been arranged for St Marks Priory on the 8th of June to which all local groups with an interest in the care of the elderly have been invited. The purpose of the meeting is to meet the social work team and members of the health services to see what services are available and what is required. This should lead to maximum use of the available resources.

History Society.

The society was originated as a sub committee of the council but is now actively seeking to establish its own identity and has prepared a draft constitution a copy of which is available in the council correspondence file in the library.

Already some progress has been made and the society has split into three component groups to study different parts of the local history. Meetings are on Wednesday nights at 6.30 in the library and all are welcome. Further details from Gordon Macrae 657.1347.

Joppa Tennis Courts.

The coaching scheme sponsored by the Prudential Assurance Company is proving successful and may be extended.

On a darker note, the recreation department have no money for repairs to the pavilion which they admit are necessary. At a rough estimate, materials alone are likely to cost between 2 and 300 pounds. A local joiner has kindly volunteered to do the work if the materials can be supplied. We have approached the Round Table to see if they can help with finance and await a reply.

Illuminations.

No report.

Youth and Entertainments.

No report as such but the grant for the Fringe at the Seaside has been approved.

Environmental Health.

A letter outlining the dog mess problem and asking for help in combatting it has been circulated in the Brighton Crescent area. Copies can be made available for any other group to distribute in their own area.

The list of those present at the May meeting should also include Inspector A White and PC G Jeffrey of L&B Police.

