

DECEMBER 1988

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 6th AGM of the Council held in Portobello Library on Monday 5th December 1988.

Present: Hamish Shepherd (Chair), Harry Dawson, Andy McDonald, Harold Alexander-Bowen, Karen Angelosanto, Helen Kirsopp, Henry Wanless, Maureen Child, Franny Wraith, Angela Murray, Sue Hurford, Drew Strachan, Margaret Shepherd, Marjorie Amos, Florence Jones, Margaret Waugh, Bill Westwood, Susan Westwood. *Tom Fainie, Wilma Henderson, CI Watt, Cllr Anderson, Gordon McCrae.*

Apologies: Ray Lang, Elizabeth Brownlee, Bernadette Heron, Bill Davidson, Robert Sinclair, Karen Begg, Rena Begg, Vivienne Middleton, Catherine Kilgour, Cllr Ward, Cllr Begg, Isabella Thomson

1. **Minutes of the last AGM** were approved without amendment.

2. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman, Hamish Shepherd ran through the issues in which the Community Council had taken an active role throughout the past year. There had been a deputation asking for the No 45 bus to be restored; a meeting with the residents complaining about noise from the Marine Garage; the dog training scheme was organised in the Seabeach Hotel; involvement in the District Council's 'Good Dog' campaign. The Chairman was pleased to see something was being done at last about the dog fouling problem. He noted the High Street landscaping was finished at last but commented on the poor quality of the workmanship. Mr Shepherd said there was no movement on the development of the Pool Site yet but Anchor International were understood to be starting work in January and finishing in May. The Chairman announced the Civic Week had been successful and the committee had learned a lot from their first experience organising it. The East Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel had been set up this year and was operating very successfully with the support of C I Watt and the local police. Windsor Place Church is to be developed with a room made available for the community to use. Mr Shepherd concluded by thanking the community council members, CI Watt, Portobello Amenity Society, PADCA, the Sunshine Club and all the local organisations that "add to the quality of life in Portobello". He also thanked the Edinburgh District Council and Lothian Regional Council officials for their help throughout the year and praise the local Councillors, fellow office bearers and members of the Community Council for their "commitment and dedication".

3. **Treasurer's Report.** (See draft accounts enclosed). Florence Jones, the Treasurer, announced with regret that the Auditor, Mr Dennis Hosie could not sign the docket since he was not satisfied on three points:-
(a) In the General Account, £158.50p was paid to St Mark's for 12 months booking their Hall. Since St Marks could not accomodate the meetings on some of these dates a rebate was due.
(b) £100 cash held by Harry Dawson appears in the accounts. This covers repairs at Joppa Tennis Courts. Then Edinburgh District Council granted £200 for the repairs and the £100 was not required. £58.16p went to timber for the repairs which the Chairman Hamish Shepherd had carried out voluntarily, assisted by the Secretary Harry Dawson. This leaves another £141.84p of Community Council money still unaccounted for. The Treasurer reported this had been outstanding for some time and should be returned to

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^{£141.84p}
the bank account or otherwise accounted for. The Secretary, Harry Dawson said that the ~~sum~~ ^{sum} in question was "inadvertantly muddled by me from monies owed by other parties not connected to the Community Council." He accepted responsibility for this sum of money and indicated it would take some months to pay it back.

(c) A total of £525 - grant money from Edinburgh District Council for the High Street Christmas illuminations (1987) - had not passed through the Illuminations account. In his comments on the accounts, the Auditor, Mr Hosie said apart from the balance of £12.19p, he "knew not of the illuminations account". Mr Hosie was thanked for his comments and his support and then he withdrew from the meeting at his own request.

The Secretary said the grant cheque had not been issued to Portobello Community Council but to him personally, crossed A/C Payee. He said that the fact the illuminations went up and came down last year were evidence the money had been properly spent. The Council have no receipts for goods bought or services rendered.

Discussion on the Treasurer's Report centred around the degree of urgency in getting the accounts straightened out. The AGM should have been held by the end of September and our inability to lodge audited accounts with EDC will put a stop on the Community Council's next grant.

On point (a) it will be necessary to get details from the Community Council Secretary's records on the contract with St Mark's and the bookings not taken up, so a refund can be claimed. On point (b) it was felt it would be nice to have confirmation for the Community Council's decision in August 10th 1987 to advance the £100 to cover the repair to the Joppa Tennis Courts pavillion. On point (c) it was felt that a receipt for £125 for replacement bulbs should be simple to obtain from the contractors. Confirmation about the grant cheque should be available from Edinburgh District Council.

It was proposed that the present office bearers sort out an agreement with Harry Dawson to cooperate with them and pay back any monies owed to the Community Council, bringing in the CAB or any other ex-officio body they find necessary. They should make every effort to get the necessary documentation to satisfy all three of the Auditor's points.

All other business was suspended till the next meeting, fixed at 7.15pm on Monday 9th January in Portobello Library.

A. McDonald