

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting in St Philip's Church Hall, Brunstane Road North
7.30pm on Monday 11th September 1989.

Present: Catherine Kilgour; Karen Angelosanto; Marjorie Amos; Inspector Jim Gray (Portobello Police); Harold Alexander-Bowen; Bernadette Heron; Elizabeth Brownlee; Rena Begg; Helen Kirsopp; Councillor David Begg; Gill Anderson; Drew Strachan; Andy MacDonald (Acting Chairman); Florence Jones (Treasurer); Maureen Child (Acting Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Ray Lang; Gordon McRae; Gavin Strang MP; Sue Hurford; Councillor Ken Ward; Sandra Blake (CAB); Vivienne Middleton.

2. **Minutes of the August 14th Meeting.** Approved with the amendment in (Treasurer's Report) - 'also insurance to been paid' to read 'has been paid'. (Proposed - Florence Jones; seconded - Rena Begg).

3. **Matters Arising.** Paperbanks. Acting Secretary had written about ideas for siting paperbanks in Portobello, and received a reply from Keith Young noting our comments. The scheme is to be reviewed in early October and likely to be widened then. Bikini's, King's Place Acting Secretary had phoned the planning department who supplied the contacts in the various departments who might be involved (licensing, environmental health and LRC highways). Bernadette Heron given a copy to follow up. EDC Recreation Facility. Acting Secretary had phoned Cllr George Kerevan and Stephen Wray (assistant director of recreation - sport) for the report on the back page of Sept/Oct Portobello Reporter. Meeting felt that recreational facilities in Portobello in general had contracted - especially for senior citizens - with the imminent closure of PADCA and the loss of St Mark's Church Hall. Secretary to write, expressing concern that plans for EDC's facility are going ahead to an advanced stage before the community is consulted. By the time the community sees them would it be too late to have any real input? (Proposed - Helen Kirsopp; seconded - Bernadette Heron).

4. **Correspondence:** Letter from Scott Weatherstone (EDC Community Services) thanking us for letting him come and talk about decentralisation. Received a quote from Dimensions direct marketing company for distribution of election leaflets £23 per thousand (special community rate). The CC area had been surveyed and it would be possible to use them in the future.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** No monies spent since the last meeting. Grant for year 1989/90 in the bank on deposit for the next community council. Inland Revenue reported to be happy with the accounts. As requested, the Treasurer had looked up the figures for the cost of the original illuminations - £2,280 initially, with £215 the following year, then a further charge for replacement bulbs and shades, which would be an ongoing expense. Acting Secretary reminded members that the lights were stored in EDC's technical services department and we had formally requested that EDC put them up and take them down in Portobello this year. The Working Party on Christmas Decorations of EDC had representation from Portobello Community Council in Harry Dawson and now (nominally) the Acting Secretary, who was unable to attend any of the meetings. Any volunteers to take on this role?

6. **Community Council Elections.** Acting Secretary circulated Returning Officer Andrew Sandeman's list of names and addresses of valid nominations, totalling 17. Two nomination papers had been technically invalid - one inadvertently wasn't signed (Drew Strachan) and the other put his address as Bath Street instead of Bath Place (Robert Strand). This was deeply regretted since otherwise we would have almost a 'full house'. Neta Sinclair, Andrew Sandeman and the Acting Secretary suggested the community council announce a by-election to fill the vacant spaces. The risk of having to hold a poll to fill three places was considered worth it, so as not to lose Drew Strachan's valuable services and get the numbers up to full strength. But this was a matter for the next Community Council and would be put on the agenda for the AGM.

Meantime, Acting Secretary is to write to the general purposes committee of EDC suggesting that the 'cut-off' point of 4pm had made it impossible (in the circumstances) to contact the candidates at work in time to make good their oversight. A cut off of 8pm would have avoided a lot of irritation, anxiety and frustration all round. (Proposer - Harold Alexander-Bowen; seconder - Rena Begg).

The election of nominated members from the local interest groups was going ahead. Helen Kirsopp was helping the RO with this one. All registered groups should have received their nomination forms, which are to be in by the 25th September. The meeting (if necessary) is on 2nd October in Portobello Library. Andrew Sandeman reports 22 groups were registered with the District Council and two stated they were unlikely to nominate a representative.

7. **AOCB PADCA.** The centre is taking no more bookings after the end September. Their grant was still withheld since PADCA had not satisfied the conditions laid down for its release and was running out of money. Cllr Begg felt that though it might not be a popular decision in some quarters, it was the right one. Some discussion followed on the way ahead. Joppa Allotments Drew Strachan thanked the Community Council for their support in this fight and reported the owner had gone to ground and disappeared. Morton Street bridge over the railway on the Joppa Quarry Park side reported not to have disabled access. Cllr Begg to go and have a look. St Philip's Donation. Decided we should give the Church a donation for the use of their premises (Treasurer).

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Annual General Meeting 1989

The AGM of the Portobello Community Council will be held on Monday, 9th October 1989 in the Annexe of Towerbank Primary School, Bath Street.

Agenda

- (1) Apologies
- (2) Minutes of the last meeting
- (3) Acting Chairman's Report
- (4) Treasurer's Report
- (5) Election of Office Bearers
- (6) 'Filling in the gaps' in the Community Council
- (7) AOCB *Maureen Child, Acting Secretary, 8 Lee Crescent (669 2184).*