



[335<sup>th</sup> PCC Meeting]

[29.02.2016]

## Minutes of the 335<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

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**Present:** Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Brian Cosford, Mina Curran (Woodcraft), Colin Cuthbert, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Graham Elliot (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Justin Kenrick, Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Ben McLeish, Thea MacMillan, Lawrence Marshall, David Medcalf, Clare Slifer Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters.

**Apologies:** Mark Cameron, Cllr David Walker.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Mike Bridgman, Sgt Gordon Duff, and members of the public.

### 335.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 335.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed.

**335.2a** Brunstane PAC (334.6): The Council were organising Place Standard events for the end of March and PCC would publicise in due course.

### 335.3 Police Report

Sgt Duff presented his Police Report (see appended). He noted concerns about anti-social behaviour and reiterated that such concerns should be reported to the Police so they had information to act on. He also reported that the Police may undertake some test purchasing in response to worries about underage attempts to buy alcohol. He reported on the outcome of traffic monitoring at Joppa Road, with average speeds being below the limit. He also reported that housebreaking locally was averaging 3-4 per month, and of 4 in February 3 had been solved. He noted that crime prevention seminars were being arranged in Craigmillar for the public, and in response to a query agreed look at holding similar events in Portobello. Ben McLeish raised concerns about parking and safety around Brunstane Station and Sgt Duff agreed to look into the matter.

### 335.4 Environmental Report

Sean Watters outlined the Environment Report (see appended).

### 335.5 Tidal Octopus

Lauren Fox, the artist who created the Tidal Octopus, introduced herself and the possibility of reinstating the artwork. Various possibilities for financing were discussed and Sean Watters and Peter Bradley agreed to look into the matter further with Lauren.

**ACTION: To look into possible funding options**



## **335.6 Joppa Toilets**

Brian Cramb of Joppa Residents Association gave a presentation about work done to date on the possibility of reopening the public toilets, and requested help from the Community Council. It was agreed to publicise the issue with a view to gauging the level of practical support within the community for such an initiative, and whether volunteers could be found to help take the matter further.

**ACTION: PCC to publicise the issue**

## **335.7 Duddingston Park- woodland strip**

Nicholas Whitelaw introduced himself as an independent Planner who had been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for the woodland strip on Duddingston Park that his client had recently purchased. He was looking at what constraints or opportunities might exist, and issues such as whether any portion of the land was developable, or whether it could be brought into public use. He also noted a number of trees would have to be removed due to Dutch Elm Disease. Local residents in attendance pointed out a number of burdens on the land tied to the neighbouring residencies, and that locals had sought to purchase the land themselves in the past. Nicholas agreed to take their details to pass on to his client.

## **335.8 Portobello High School update**

Portobello High School were organising events to celebrate the old school prior to the move to the new one, including a concert on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and open days on the afternoon of Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>. They were also encouraging ex-pupils to send in photos, memories etc.

## **335.9 Alcohol provision**

Carried over to next meeting.

## **335.10 Hustings/events – Scottish election and EU referendum**

After discussion it was agreed to look to hold a hustings in the Town Hall for the Holyrood elections. Colin Cuthbert noted problems with the sound system at previous events and suggested using a better system. Lee Kindness, Colin Cuthbert and Emma Dempsey agreed to look into arrangements.

**ACTION: Develop Hustings proposal**

## **335.11 Consultation Sub-committee**

There had been a break in the monthly Scot-mid consultations, but it was planned to reintroduce them.

The Scottish Community Development Centre had completed its report on the Community Council's community engagement, assessing it as "exemplifying excellent practice":

<http://www.communityscot.org.uk/resources/know-your-community/case-studies/portobello-community-council/>



## 335.12 BTOB

No update.

## 335.13 Other reports

- a. Treasurer – the account stood at £3598.94.
- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – details of the You Decide! Event were still being finalised but would be available soon.
- c. Planning – the Community Council's application for the new signs on the Prom had been approved, as had the new dining extension at Towerbank.

EDI had arranged a drop-in event for the Brunstane PAC at the King's Manor hotel on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and were also publicising the proposals by delivering 2,000 leaflets locally. Information would also be available on the EDI web-site after the event.

The Portobello Conservation Character Appraisal review was in process, and a discussion took place as to how the PCC could engage people, possibly through a survey or photo-competition. It was agreed to develop ideas further.

- d. Councillors – nothing to report.

## 335.14 Any Other Business

1. Old Bellfield Parish Church

Justin Kenrick raised concerns about the church being put up for sale and the loss to the community of such an important asset. There was a discussion around the possibility of community ownership, and Graham Elliot, Justin Kenrick, Thea MacMillan, Colin Cuthbert and Emma Dempsey agreed to look into it further.

**ACTION: investigate the issue further**

2. Joppa Tennis Courts

AGM to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## 335.15 Date of the Next Meeting

The 336<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Portobello Community Council to be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April (337)  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May (338)

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*335<sup>th</sup> PCC meeting closed.*