



[342nd PCC Meeting]

[31.10.2016]

Minutes of the 342nd Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 31st October 2016.

Present: Paul Lambie, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Onyema Ibe (Towerbank Parent Council), Elaine Murray, Mary Campbell, Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Donald Bloxham, Madeline Begg, Esther Gray, Sean Watters, Miranda Hurst, Frazer McNaughton (Duddingston Primary School Parent Council).

Apologies: Mark Cameron, Colin Cuthbert.

In Attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Mike Bridgman, and members of the public.

342.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

342.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the August and earlier October meeting were agreed.

342.3 Police Report

PC David Love introduced himself and gave a brief report.

342.4 Environment Report

No report.

342.5 Brunstane PPP

Geoff Lynn outlined the results of the PCC's consultation on the application. 160 responses had been received, with 135 objections, 12 comments and 13 in support. The most common concerns cited were around traffic impacts, access, congestion, road safety, pollution etc., followed by loss of Greenbelt, environmental impact, loss of biodiversity etc., followed by the impact on local services and infrastructure. After discussion, it was agreed to object to the application highlighting the main concerns identified through the consultation.

ACTION: submit objection to the application



342.6 Old Bellfield Parish Hall

Mary Campbell gave an update on the proposed community buy-out. The registration of community interest had been accepted, which opened up an eight month window in which to buy the property. A meeting was being held at Portobello & Joppa Parish Church on November 15th, 7-9pm, to give further information on where things stand and the process going forward.

342.7 The George Bingo Hall

A brief update was given on the tour of the building. The general view was that the condition of the building was consistent with the survey submitted as part of the failed planning application: the building was in poor condition and there was some damage, but it also retained a number of original features and was in not a dangerous condition. Some roof damage had been noted and a concern was raised that the building should be kept wind and watertight.

Out of the Blue had completed their feasibility study for a continued use of the building and were happy for the PCC to share it with the community. However, it was felt that there was not much that could be done to progress that as a possibility, at least for the moment. It was agreed to wait and see what proposals the new owners brought forward for the building.

342.8 Safe use of the Prom

Lee Kindness ran through the outcomes of the June discussion on the Prom and the themes that had emerged. He had also been in touch with COEC's Active Travel Officer who had offered to come to the next meeting to discuss the issues. In discussion, the importance of the Prom as a community space, not just a travel space was noted. It was agreed that further discussion would be useful around how to manage the Prom as a multi-use space and identifying stakeholders for that. Esther Clayton, Frazer McNaughton, and Paul Lambie agreed to look into that further.

ACTION: item for November meeting

342.9 Baileyfield South PPP

The expected application had not yet been submitted. After discussion it was agreed to respond to a submission in a similar manner to previous planning applications: a leaflet drop to the surrounding community, materials in the library, publicising through social-media and hopefully the noticeboards. A suggestion was made that a public meeting could be held as part of the process and Mary Campbell offered to look in to that.

ACTION: publicise and consult on the application in due course, as agreed

342.10 Other Reports

- a) Treasurer: Mark Cameron had sent apologies. The current balance was £3288.36, inclusive of the Traders' Festive Fund.
- b) Neighbourhood Partnership: meetings of the Community Safety, Environment Forum, and Area Board were all upcoming. The next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting would be December 7th at the Whitehouse.



- c) Planning: The Telferton appeal had been refused, and three townhouses at the former St Jame's Church approved. The SESplan was out to consultation until November 24th. Sean Watters suggested that it would be difficult to ascertain a meaningful community view; the SESplan was complex, convoluted, and scope to influence it seemed small in any case. It seemed unlikely that many people would engage in any PCC consultation on the issue, and those that would, would be better responding to the SESplan consultation directly. After discussion it was agreed to publicise the SESplan consultation.
- d) Councillors: Cllr Child brought up a suggestion from a constituent about the creation of a dog free zone on the beach, and whether the PCC had received a similar suggestion. It was noted that there had been correspondence on the issue but, given the outcome the last time the issue was raised, it hadn't seemed worthwhile airing it again.

It was noted that there were ongoing discussions with Lothian Buses about ways of promoting Portobello as a place to visit, with the possibility of a beach bus and publicity through tickets/apps/social media.

An Xmas Street Party, organised by June Robertson of Favours Candy, was scheduled for December 1st at 5 pm. The PCC agreed to publicise it.

342.11 AOB

- a) Signboards: the problems with the signboards had not been resolved, and it was still unclear whether the issue was the locks, the keys, or both. After discussion it was agreed to spend money on a locksmith to resolve the problems if necessary, and to progress this as soon as possible.

ACTION: progress action on the signboards

- b) Marjorie Peters noted that the PCC area in the library could do with a tidy up and some sorting and offered to do so.
- c) Mary Campbell noted that the proposals for the beach volleyball court was progressing and an update might be available at a future meeting.
- d) Paul Lambie expressed an interest in ways to publicise Portobello and the events that take place here, and suggested it as a topic for a future meeting.
- e) Albert Reid, owner of the bouncy castle, noted the end of the season for the attraction and thanked the PCC for their cooperation.

342.12 Date of Next Meeting

The 343rd meeting of the Portobello Community Council to be held on Monday 28th November at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 30th January (344)
Monday 27th February (345)

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342nd PCC meeting closed