



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 306th meeting held on 25th February 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Sandra Blake, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Nelson Johnstone, Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Andrew Patterson (Council of Churches), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

Apologies: Tom Ballantine, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker, Caroline Hosking, Leon Thompson, Kenny MacAskill MSP, Ben McLeish.

In attendance: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Malcolm Betts, Gillian Dunn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Ian Wilson, and other members of the public.

306.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

306.2 Police Report

No report.

306.3 Environment update

Sean Watters summarised the February Environmental Report (see appended). Sean Watters to raise the following points with Katie Quinn.

- Litter problem at Windsor Place and the embankment to the bypass; who was responsible for clearing up this area and the Christian Path too?
- Update on when the railings to Rosefield Park will go in?
- Ongoing problem with ponding/puddles at the bus stop on the High Street opposite the Town Hall and similar problems on the Prom.
- Any progress regarding the sign directing people to the Community Centre from the High Street?

Cllr Bridgman reported that a bollard had been installed at the corner of Bath Street and Straiton place due to repeated damage to the house at the corner. A second bollard may need to be installed as there are ongoing problems, and the issues of traffic and parking in the area will need to be looked at again as there are still concerns about safety and access for emergency services.

306.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January meeting were approved; proposed by Brenda Molony, seconded by Dawson Currie.

306.5 Minutes of the Additional Meeting

The minutes of the additional meeting were approved; proposed by Nick Stroud, seconded by Maria Devoy.

306 .6 Matters arising

306.6a Noise from football pitches (305.7a). John Stewart had tried to contact Rober Gatliff but had no reply as yet.

- ◆ **Action: Awaiting information from Robert Gatliff regarding the issue.**

306.6b Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (305.7b). The National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed at a future meeting.

- ◆ **Action: Sandra Blake agreed to speak to the issue at a future meeting, possibly in March or April.**

306.6c Transport (305.7c). Nick Stroud had received a very positive reply from Ian Craig of Lothian Buses about improving public transport and the possibility of promoting Portobello as the City's seaside, and he had agreed to look further into the points raised.

306.6d Treasurer (305.7d): The Baptist Church had considered our suggestion of an increase in the rent for the hall and had proposed an increase from £15 to £40, although this might be introduced on a sliding scale for existing groups lets. At £40 a session renting the hall would take up half our annual grant, so negotiations were ongoing.

- ◆ **Action: Leon Thompson to report back on hall rental.**

306.6e Planning (305.7j): Sean Watters had circulated a brief proposal on a possible alcohol consultation, and agreed to provide more information for consideration at the next meeting.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to provide more information on a possible an alcohol consultation.**

306.6f Social Network Media (305.9g): Peter McColl had resolved the naming of the Twitter account. A question was raised as to whether there might be a clash with any Twitter account for the Community Centre, but Porty Wash House was the name now favoured so there was unlikely to be a problem.

306.7 Agree AOB

Nelson Johnstone raised the issue of changes to the warden service in sheltered housing, and Cllr Bridgman raised the issue of the Welfare Reform Act and its impact. It was agreed to discuss both under AOB.

306.8 Local Transport Strategy Consultation

Responding to the Local Transport Strategy was discussed. Consideration had been given to how best consult the community to inform a response, but given the nature of the consultation and the short timescales it had been difficult to see how to do that effectively. In the circumstances it was decided to encourage individuals to respond to the consultation rather than submit a response on behalf of PCC. Lee Kindness suggested that the notice boards could be used to publicise the consultation.

306.9 Presentation: Fort Kinnaird extension

Robin Holder, on behalf of Ocean Terminal, and Brian Muir from Fort Kinnaird, gave different perspectives on the merits or otherwise of the Fort Kinnaird proposals. On the one hand there were concerns that a new cinema and department store at Fort Kinnaird would upset the balance of retail and leisure provision across

the city, with a negative impact on Ocean Terminal and investment in Leith. On the other, the proposed cinema was only half the size of the one that had been there previously, would extend the hours of operation of Fort Kinnaird with more restaurants, strengthening it as an important retail destination and bringing more jobs into the area. Both parties were thanked for presenting their views.

306.10 Reports

306.10a Treasurer: No items of expenditure since the last meeting, rent due the following month.

306.10b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership would be at The White House, Wednesday February 27th, 6:30pm.

306.10c Planning: The Toddler Hut planning application had been granted. A consultation process regarding a proposed Lidl at the former Land Rover site had started, with a consultation event at Restalrig Community Centre on Thursday 28th February. A planning application was not expected to be submitted till May.

306.10d Signs & plaques: No report.

306.10e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next meeting was Tuesday 12th March, at the Community Centre.

306.10f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

306.10g Councillors: Cllr Bridgman noted ongoing concerns regarding traffic in the area.

306.11 AOB

306.11a Sheltered Housing Warden Service: Nelson Johnstone raised concerns about proposed changes to the warden service in sheltered housing. Consultation and assessments had been inadequate and the impact on individuals had been overlooked. Cllr Bridgman confirmed that the exercise had been carried out by Officers but proposals had not come before Councillors for scrutiny as yet. Any proposals would be looked at carefully when they came before the Health Wellbeing and Housing Committee.

306.11b Welfare Reform Act: Cllr Bridgman raised concerns about the impact of the Welfare Reform Act. As one example, the 'bedroom tax' being introduced from April 1st would impact on up to 4,000 tenants who would be deemed to have too many bedrooms. Currently, the number of one bedroom properties for let in Edinburgh stood at 24. There were fears that as these and other changes were brought in they would have very damaging effects on individuals and communities.

306.12 Future meetings

Meetings are held on the final Monday of each month, except July and December, at 7:30pm, in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh EH15 1EU.

The next meeting is on 25th March 2013 (307)

Subsequent dates are: 29th April 2013 (308)
27th May 2013 (309)
24th June 2013 (310)

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Environmental Report – February 2013

The update for this month's Portobello Community Council meeting is below:

- The improvements at Rosefield Park are almost complete. WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) are the organisation that provided the funding for this project; and they were pleased with the games area when they visited the park last week.

Unfortunately, a bin has been vandalised and thrown into the burn at the bridge within Rosefield Park, but we are arranging for that to be removed this week.

- Shrub beds were dug out and replanted in Portobello Community Garden at the beginning of February.
- A presentation on the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) projects was given at the Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum meeting on 6 February. One of the projects included was the Joppa Bandstand/ Plaza; and it was agreed that the new benches that are to be installed will have backs. The Roads Team now have these on order.
- A bollard has been installed at the corner of Bath Street (at the junction with Straiton Place) and the pavement widened in order to accommodate this. This work should be completed by 22 February.
- The pavements in James Street will be repaired as part of a batch of permanent repairs within the Portobello area in May 2013.
- The new disabled parking signage has now been installed at the Sheltered Housing in Coillesdene.
- The next Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum meeting is 6 March at 7pm, at the East Neighbourhood Centre. If anyone would like to attend they would be welcome to do so.

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