



## Minutes of the 324<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

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**Present:** Max Blinkhorn, Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Clare Slifer, Justin Kenrick (PEDAL), Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Thea MacMillan, David Medcalf, Ben McLeish, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters.

**Apologies:** Bob Jefferson.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Andy Matheson (COEC), Sean Gilchrist (COEC), Mel Coutts (COEC), Lynne Beattie (Scottish Volleyball Association), Graeme Riddle (Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club).

### 324.1 Chairs Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted what a busy year it had been for the PCC. He also encouraged people to support the Portobello Christmas Street Fest, Thursday 4 December, 5pm-8pm.

### 324.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed.

**324.2a** Baileyfield Development (323.5): A response had been circulated and submitted.

**324.2b** Community Spaces (323.6): The issue had been publicised more widely.

**324.2c** Parking and accessibility (323.4c): Raised under item 324.4.

### 324.3 Police Report

No report.

### 324.4 Environment Report

No report, but Andy Matheson and Sean Gilchrist were able to clarify some outstanding items, in particular regarding the outcome of the COEC parking survey. This had demonstrated that parking was overwhelming generated by local residents and so a resident parking scheme would do little to address problems that existed. However, given the problems, parking restrictions of some kind might be required and an update on possible proposals would follow. In discussion it was suggested that shared surfaces or 'homezones' be looked at as possible models, and the proposed bill banning pavement parking was also noted.



## 324.5 Brighton Place Setts

Sean Gilchrist outlined the situation regarding the Brighton Place setts. It was existing COEC policy to retain setts in Conservation Areas and work to Brighton Place was being proposed under the 2015-16 financial year. Replacing the setts was estimated at a cost of £1.3m and 56 weeks work (although this could be done in phases). In contrast replacing with a standard asphalt construction would cost £400k and take 16 weeks, and a short-term asphalt overlay would cost £200k and take 4 weeks. Given the considerable cost and disruption that could occur in re-laying setts, the Council had set up a working group to look at the issue across the city and whether a change in policy might be appropriate.

There followed a lengthy discussion where several concerns were raised including: the safety of the existing road, particularly for cyclists; the effects of noise and vibration on local residents; the disruption of prolonged works and the impact that might have on local shops and businesses; the need to assess the impact of that in advance; the impact of utilities works; and the need for a long term fix given how quickly the surface had deteriorated after the previous re-laying.

It was expected that a decision by COEC on how to proceed would be taken around May 2015. It was agreed to bring the issue back as an agenda item at the January meeting, with a view to carrying out a consultation in February/March.

**Action: Sean Gilchrist to e-mail Sean Watters the presentation given on the setts**

## 324.6 Christmas Street Fest

Max Blinkhorn outlined all the activities planned for the Street Fest event, involving over 30 local businesses. He thanked all those who were contributing, and noted in particular the work put in by June Robertson and Bob Jefferson. He encouraged all to attend and support the event.

## 324.7 Consultation Sub-committee

A consultation on the proposed closure of public toilets was due to start imminently, and would also be the subject of the next Scot-mid session. The next sub-committee meeting was due in January.

## 324.8 Volleyball Courts

Mel Coutts (COEC), Lynne Beattie (Scottish Volleyball Association) and Graeme Riddle (Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club) outline a proposal for permanent volleyball courts in Straiton Park. It was explained that there were currently no permanent beach volleyball courts in Scotland, despite the growing popularity of the sport, and potential locations for such a facility were being looked at. Whilst the beach had initially been considered, COEC were not keen for a variety of reasons (interference with beach cleaning, effect of tides and possible damage, health and safety issues) and the eastern portion of Straiton Park had been identified as a preferred alternative for the location of two courts. Any such facility would be freely accessible, and the Scottish Volleyball Association was active in promoting the sport for all ages and abilities, as well as doing a lot of work through schools. Whilst support for a permanent facility had been identified, the proposals were at an early stage with no funding yet identified (circa £45,000), and no timescale for delivery.

It was agreed to consult on the proposals to gauge local opinion.

**Action: Consultation on Volleyball proposals to be arranged**

## 324.9 Other reports

- a. Treasurer – the current balance stood at £1,934.27. Some payments were due, but some reimbursement for the Cruden/Aldi consultation was expected from the developers.



- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – Sean Watters had attended the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Neighbourhood Partnership were planning a Participatory Budget event for 23<sup>rd</sup> May, where local people would decide on grant awards to local groups and events. There would be a number of planning meetings in advance, scheduled during the day. Sean Watters explained he would find it difficult to attend, but that the Neighbourhood Partnership were keen on input from the Community Councils. As such he'd circulate the meeting details when available, if anybody else was able to attend.

**Action: Sean Watters the circulate meeting dates when available**

- c. Planning – A site visit for the Development Management Sub-committee had been arranged for Baileyfield the following Thursday. The existing consent for flat development at the Bath Street gap site had been renewed, but the new application was still to be determined. Lee Kindness noted the Wellsprings initiative in Newcraighall, with a social enterprise proposing to take existing buildings into community use.
- d. Councillors – Cllr Child had circulated her report. Cllr Bridgman had circulated a newsletter. Terry Dobson raised an issue with overgrown vegetation in the Gilberstoun area.

### **324.10 Any Other Business**

**324.10a** Max Blinkhorn invited everyone to participate in a Loony Dook on New Year's Day at 1pm.

### **324.11 Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting (325) of the Portobello Community Council will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (326)  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March (327)

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*324nd PCC meeting closed.*