



[344th PCC Meeting]

[30.01.2017]

Minutes of the 344th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 30th January 2017.

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

Apologies: Tara McCarthy (Brunstane Primary School Parent Council), Mark Cameron, Donald Bloxham, Peter Bradley (Brighton & Rosefield Residents Association), Paul Lambie.

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

344.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

344.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the October meeting were agreed.

344.2a The George Bingo Hall (343.6): consultation results had been passed to the owners.

344.2b Portobello Town Centre (343.8): consultation results had been passed to CoEC.

344.2c Treverlen Park (343.9): to publicise the planning application in due course.

344.3 Police Report

PC Matt McPherson gave a brief report (see attached).

344.4 Environment Report

Steve Wheatley gave a brief update on the Porty Lightbox, what had happened in the four year since it was adopted, and what displays were upcoming.

The Parks department had sought feedback on 3 options for possible playpark improvements. A brief survey had been undertaken that indicated improving the play equipment in Straiton Place Park was the most popular option. The consultation responses had been fed back to Scott Thomson who hoped to proceed with the works by the summer. Frazer McNaughton queried whether the positioning of the equipment had been finalised, and whether there was a longer term plan for the rejuvenation of parks and public spaces in the area. It was suggested that Scott Thomson would be best able to advise on that

ACTION: Frazer McNaughton to contact Scott Thomson



The Parks Department had sought feedback on an application for an expanded bouncy castle operation in Straiton Place Park. The PCC had run a consultation on the issue and fed the results back to CoEC: out of 234 responses 48% objected, with 43% in support. However, many of the objections related to the length of the proposed lease and the extra activities, rather than the principle of the proposal. Council Officers had subsequently proposed terms that the applicant felt made any operation unviable. Views were expressed that the attraction had proved popular last year and that it would be a shame to lose it entirely. Cllr Bridgman noted that he was taking the matter up with Council Officers to see if a compromise might be reached that would enable the proposal to go ahead in some form. It was agreed to await further developments.

344.5 Baileyfield South Planning Application

The PCC consultation on the Baileyfield South (Standard Life) planning application had received 269 response, with 55% objecting, 30% supporting, and 15% commenting. The principal concerns expressed related to traffic impacts, the impact on local services, and the density of the development. The most common suggested improvements were: reducing the density, reducing the heights, and more parks/greenspace. A public meeting had also been held in the library, with representatives from the developers, that had been well attended. All comments received, both from the survey and the event, had been sent to the planning department. After discussion it was agreed to comment on the application, highlighting the outcome of the PCC consultation and the main issues raised.

ACTION: Sean Watters to draft a comment and circulate

344.6 The George Bingo Hall

Esther Gray noted a conflict of interest as she was a member of a newly formed Friends of The George group that were hoping to progress an alternative proposal for the site base on the Out of The Blue feasibility study, and that she would therefore take no part in discussing the item.

The brief consultation on the new owners outline proposals had received 263 responses. On the change of use to residential: 70% objected, 21% supported, and 9% were neutral. On the specific proposal: 72% objected, 21% supported, and 7% were neutral. All comments received had been forwarded to the new owners.

A planning application had been submitted, in line with the proposals presented to the PCC at the last meeting. It was noted that the supporting Planning Statement contained inaccuracies, erroneously suggesting that the PCC had previously investigated acquiring The George and was now looking to buy Bellfield Church. It was also noted that that the previous application for the site had made similar incorrect claims, that the agent for that application had been made aware the claims were incorrect, and that the agent for the previous application was also the agent for the current application. After discussion it was agreed to object to the application.

ACTION: Sean Watters to draft an objection and circulate

344.7 Safe use of the Prom

It was agreed to carry the item over to a future meeting.

344.8 General Survey

There was a brief discussion on different approaches to a general survey and how it might be useful. It was agreed to carry the item over to a future meeting and Sean Watters offered to draft some options as a basis for discussion.

ACTION: carry over to a future meeting, Sean Watters to suggest survey options



344.9 PCC Library area

Mary Campbell suggested a refresh of the PCC library area, and requested some help in identifying documents that might be surplus to requirements. Sean Watters agreed to help.

ACTION: Mary Campbell and Sean Watters to check the PCC library area

344.10 Other Reports

- a) Treasurer: Mark Cameron had sent apologies and a report, but had also sadly stepped down as a Community Councillor. The Chair recorded thanks for the contribution Mark had made to the PCC. Colin Cuthbert agreed to stand in as Treasurer, at least till the June AGM. The current balance was £3651.56, inclusive of the Traders' Festive Fund, with funds having been received from Barratts towards the costs of the consultation on Baileyfield South.
- b) Neighbourhood Partnership: the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting was on February 22nd at the East Neighbourhood Centre.
- c) Planning: nothing further to note.
- d) Councillors: Cllr Child highlighted the "Shared Vision – Your Decision" initiative being run jointly by CoEC and Police Scotland to tackle Islamophobia.

344.11 AOB

- a) Local traders raised concerns about the new valuations being proposed for non-domestic rates, with some premises facing huge rises, with the prospect that a number of businesses could be forced to close. It was agreed to raise concerns with relevant parties.

ACTION: Sean Watters to draft PCC letter expressing concerns

- b) It was suggested that it would be useful for the PCC to have an informal discussion, to get to know one another and share thoughts on the role of a Community Council and its members. It was agreed to hold part of the February meeting in private, once formal business was concluded, to allow such a discussion.

344.12 Date of Next Meeting

The 345th meeting of the Portobello Community Council to be held on Monday 27th February at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 27th March (346)
 Monday 24th April (347)

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344th PCC meeting closed