



## Minutes of the 417th meeting of Portobello Community Council held on Monday 28th October 2024 - DRAFT

**Present:** Mike Leeman (Chair), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer & PAS Representative), Esther Clayton, Frazer McNaughton, Catherine Etoe (Brighton & Rosefield Residents Association Representative).

**In attendance:** Councillor Tim Jones, Cllr. Kate Campbell and seven members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Jane Meagher and Cllr. Alys Mumford.

### **417.1 Chair's welcome and introductions**

### **417.2 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

Kings Road action: still no update, both PCC and Cllr. Mumford have chased.

Link Access for Cash survey of the local area action: Mike is waiting to hear back.

Graffiti on the promenade: Mike has written to Police Scotland.

Consultations on the Library, Seafield and Transient Visitor Levy will go live on our channels.

Pittville Street Lane developers were invited to this meeting but have not attended.

### **417.5 b. Police.**

Update from PC Anna Morrison.

Increase in anti-social behaviour connected with fireworks, mostly in Niddrie. Dedicated officers to be deployed constantly in the run up to and including Bonfire Night.

Increase in high visibility patrols because of ASB. Police working with schools around ASB and children involved, with projects ongoing in terms of graffiti.

Cllr. Jones asked how many ASB reports. PC Morrison says eight, not major but more than normal. Police can be emailed if there are any issues.

### **417.3 Neighbourhood Market.**

Preston could not attend but hopefully can in November.

### **417.3 Portobello Town Centre update.**

Modelling contractor has changed, but an event will be presented in Portobello in the first quarter of 2025.



Cllr. Jones has emailed Gordon Webster for an update and to ask why the contractor has been changed and how that has impacted progress. Awaiting a reply.

## **417.4 Community Council elections update.**

Notice of elections to be published 5th February, with election on 27th March 2025. Current CC will have its last meeting in February 2025.

## **417.5 Portobello Police Station Community Right to Buy.**

Mike Leeman confirms the consultation is out on PCC channels with 60 responses so far. Will add a closing date and clarify why we are taking email addresses – to verify respondents. Confirms the email addresses will be wiped.

Member of the public mentions that making all answers mandatory can be awkward. Mike takes the point.

Frazer McNaughton offers an update on Action Party's (AP) plans.

A closing date on the consultation could be 10 days from launch. AP need time to collate the feedback and, if positive, proceed with the application to seek an asset transfer.

AP will need to establish evidence of community support and demand, plus a business case.

Complex building but a wonderful opportunity for the community and it can be used for lots of different things – public use, commercial enterprise that supports life on the High Street.

Working to the principles of community wealth building, a policy from the Scottish government, about making sure the benefits of local economies stay in local communities.

Community benefits in terms of trades and businesses, locals benefit from profit, that gets recycled into other projects. AP focus on housing needs, useful conversations around improving facilities on the prom.

Request for an extension to halt the sale is not happening as Police Scotland are following the correct procedures in terms of legislation. Whether it goes on the open market before AP are ready is another thing.

Proposal needs community support and there are still questions over who will progress it. Community would hold the property in perpetuity.

Cllr. Jones asks if there is anyone to lead on it and for a funding insight.

Frazer says the AP Board are leading it and is feasible to buy the building but then it might require modification. They have the reports etc, just needs building into the business model.



Member of public asks for details of AP. Frazer explains they are a community-led organisation and properly constituted. Stephen Hawkins says they led the first urban asset transfer when they took over Bellfield Church.

Frazer says AP could own the building for the community and rent it to a private operator and that would mean the revenue could be recycled. Broad minded about potential business model. Legislation is supportive of that.

**Action for PCC: Mike to put an end date on the consultation and deal with GDPR issue. Will then collate and summarise responses for the PCC and send to AP.**

### **417.6 a. Treasurer**

There has been one payment of £21.17 for Basecamp fees since the last meeting. £1312.59 is the balance. Paid £1,200 from Traders Account to Field and Lawn who are organising Christmas tree lights. Stephen has suggested the balance of £29.10 should also be transferred and the account closed but is awaiting a response from the traders.

Frazer suggests asking if they want to donate it to a good cause.

### **417.6 c. Councillors.**

Cllr. Campbell says councillors are dealing with a possible end to funding for community organisations from the Integrated Joint Health Board. This will be discussed at the City of Edinburgh council.

Cllr. Jones is still dealing with Bath Street issues; chasing the advance bike light at the junction of Duddingston Road and Mountcastle Drive; has sought clarification on the 20 minute neighbourhood change of contract provider; still awaiting date for advertisement of TRO for CPZ.

All four councillors met with the Friends of the George and council officials David Gibbon and Peter Wootton to discuss progress. ongoing. Stephen Hawkins attended for PCC. Discussions are not yet in the public domain.

### **In reply:**

Frazer McNaughton asks if there is potential to create a public space at the end of Bath Street. Cllr. Jones says that is the suggestion from residents although it is not straightforward because of residents parking, but officers are looking into it.

Cllr. Campbell says local transport fund small projects and a change would need a TRO but funding could be there.

After further discussion, Frazer asks if the PCC could help and that councillors ensure that any ideas from the officers allow for community engagement.



Member of the public asks about the Integrated Joint Health Board funding issue, Cllr. Campbell suggests he emails her. Positions of the various political parties on this is not clear yet.

### **417.6 d. Planning.**

Station Brae development has been refused.

Pittville Street Lane: plans have been resubmitted. Discussion around whether the PCC should consult on the proposal.

Member of the public concerned around its potential as temporary accommodation because of lack of parking in the plans, but it is not clear.

Member of the public concerned there will be increase in volume of traffic.

For consistency in terms of other developments and the size of the proposal, PCC agrees to publicise the application and link to the planning portal.

**Action for PCC: Mike to publicise this week. Closing date for comments is 15th Nov.**

### **417.6 e Seafield.**

Frazer McNaughton explained that the consultation is now closed. Architect Malcolm Frazer is the community representative and has emailed the council to say the community still want to be involved after this consultation.

### **AOB.**

Cath Etoe raised the issue of damage to the brickwork around drains as well as some parts of the setts on Brighton Place and believes the road is taking on too much traffic.

– Cllr. Campbell suggests sending images of the damage, traffic flows could be raised under the 20 Minute Neighbourhood initiative.

– Stephen Hawkins asks if Alan Hoad could be spoken to by councillors to see what can be done about speed reduction on Brighton Place.

Frazer McNaughton raised the erosion of the concrete ramp at Seafield because the beach level has dropped.

– Esther Clayton adds that the Joppa Rocks ramp is also damaged. Cllr. Jones will chase.

Esther Clayton raised the issue of the plans to redevelop Windsor Place Park and a request that has been made to her by users and residents to give input.

– Member of the public suggests they could set up as Friends of Windsor Place Park.



– **Action for PCC:** Esther to give Mike Leeman their details; Mike to write to the parks department and reference the group.

Mike Leeman details request from the council for good news stories from the community council.

– Suggestions: Town Hall, hustings, groynes, Pitz, Seafield.

Cllr. Jones raises the issue of the toilets and asks what the right solution is. Pipe Lane drawings were exciting. Can we revisit it?

– Frazer McNaughton discusses the PCC's previous Pipe Lane suggestions and plans to create a beach hub. Council officials were interested but Cllr. Campbell says there is no funding. Suggests residents write to councillors to ask for money to be set side for toilets in the budget. Frazer suggests revisiting the plan with the Transient Visitor Levy in mind.

– Member of the public suggests also opening up the toilets at the baths to the public.

Meeting ends 20.55