



Minutes of the 321st Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 25th August 2014.

Present: Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Bob Jefferson, Geoff Lynn, Thea MacMillan, Ben McLeish, David Medcalf, Clare Slifer, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters.

Apologies: Max Blinkhorn, Maria Devoy, Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Lee Kindness, Cllr Mike Bridgman, Sheila Gilmour MP.

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

321.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the deadline for voter registration for the referendum was September 2nd. He also noted there would soon be changes to waste and recycling services as publicised by City of Edinburgh Council.

321.2 Police Report

No Police report.

321.3 Environmental Report

No Environment report. A letter had been circulated on behalf of Milton Court residents concerned about traffic and parking on Hope Lane and requesting a pedestrian crossing to link to the proposed new path to the perimeter of the golf-course proposed as part of the school development. Cllr Child confirmed that the issue had been raised with the Environment Forum.

321.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Stephen Hawkins, Diana Cairns and Gillian Dunn challenged the accuracy of the minutes and why a discussion regarding a complaint had not been recorded. It was pointed out that the agenda item under discussion had been reconciliation, not a complaint, but it was agreed that having now received the complaint a response would be given by the next meeting. With a minor amendment the minutes were agreed.

321.4a Hall usage (320.1): research into the current use of community spaces was ongoing.

Action: Ongoing

321.4b Sir Harry Lauder Road closure (320.3): the lack of notice was due to the nature of the work being relatively urgent, and a concern that if delayed the closure would coincide with a temporary closure of the Wisp, exacerbating traffic problems.

321.4c Christian Path (320.3): the brambles and nettles had been significantly cut back.

321.4d Minutes of June meeting (320.4): amended regarding the Kiln restoration.

321.4e Prom Markings (320.4a): awaiting a response from COEC regarding queries.

Action: Ongoing



321.4f Cycling on the Prom (320.4c): further discussion to be had with Access Officer.

Action: Ongoing

321.4g Referendum Event (320.4d): “The Big Vote” had been arranged for Wednesday 27 August at St Mark’s Church.

321.4h Parking and accessibility (320.4d): SW had contacted Andy Matheson and Andrew MacLeod.

Action: Awaiting a response from COEC

321.4i Richard Demarco Event (320.7): Agenda item.

321.5 Out of the Blue

Rob Hoon from Out of the Blue gave an outline of their activities as an arts and education charity and how they had established an artistic hub in Portobello over the last 7 years on the Baileyfield site. They were keen to keep a presence in Portobello but the new development proposals for the site no longer included any studio spaces, and it seemed unlikely the new owners would change their approach. Alternatives were being looked into, such as Phoenix House, but it was increasingly difficult to find spaces in competition with commercial development. The PCC agreed to support efforts to retain Out of the Blue’s presence in Portobello.

321.6 Baileyfield Development

Cruden/Aldi’s planning application for a mixed development of housing and a supermarket was expected to be lodged in early September. An outline Planning Permission in Principle was expected for the scheme as a whole with detailed application by Aldi coming in advance of the housing proposals being finalised. The loss of artists’ studios had already been noted as a concern and a number of others had also been raised including: traffic impacts, congestion, parking difficulties, the impact on local services and the Towerbank roll, and the possible impact on existing retailers on the High Street. It was felt important that these concerns be addressed fully in the Planning Application. It was also noted that the period for comment was usually 6 weeks, so the PCC would need to devise means to make people aware of, and consult upon, the proposals: the Consultation Sub-committee to consider further.

Action: Consultation Sub-committee to consider consultation options

321.7 Local Development Plan

The Councils consultation on the Second Proposed Local Development Plan was running until 3rd October. The most significant change locally was the proposed release of Greenbelt land at Brunstane for housing, and an increase in the housing allocated at Newcraighall North and East. Given the size and complexity of the Local Development Plan it was decided to focus on the local housing issue and consult using a summary highlighting possible pros and cons. It was also agreed to put the Local Development Plan information in the Library. Sean Watters, Thea MacMillan and Claire Slifer agreed to draft a consultation survey.

Action: Consultation survey to be drafted

321.8 Richard DeMarco Event

The Richard Demarco Lecture had been confirmed for Thursday 11th September at the Edinburgh College. Tickets were available online and the event had been publicised in the Portobello Reporter. It was agreed to increase the budget for the event from £150 to £200.

321.9 Dementia Friendly Portobello

A multi-media event raising awareness of dementia had been planned for Saturday October 25th in the Wash House. A request for a £90 donation from the PCC towards the hire cost of the hall had been received. The Neighbourhood Partnership had already provided grant funding for an information leaflet and could not provide further support at this point, and other sources of funding were very limited. A £90 donation was agreed.



321.10 Powercraft zoning

The buoys to mark out restrictions for powered craft off the beach had been manufactured by the Council, but had proved too difficult to install due to weight/handling. A revised design was being looked at but it seemed likely that nothing would be installed until the following spring/summer.

321.11 Brighton Place bridge

Northfield and Willowbrae Community council had raised concerns about the state of the bridge, in particular the pigeon mess. Cllr Child confirmed that the Council were responsible for the pigeon netting and were aware of the problem. The bridge had been inspected the previous week and work would likely require an overnight road closure. It was unlikely that the works would take place before November.

321.12 Consultation and Engagement Sub-committee

Preparation was in hand for the PCC's stall at the Village Show, with further discussion at the next meeting of the sub-committee on September 4th.

321.13 Other reports

- a. Treasurer – the current balance stood at £2,773.69.
- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – the next meeting would be at 6:30, November 9th, at the East Neighbourhood Office. It was also noted that there would be a participatory budget event next Spring, along the lines of Leith Decides, to award funding to local groups and projects.
- c. Planning – no report.
- d. Councillors – Cllr Child had circulated her report.

321.14 Any Other Business

321.14a Signs and Plaques: it was confirmed that the statement setting out the status of the Signs and Plaques and the committee would be minuted (see appended).

321.14b "Dig Portobello": details of the "Dig Portobello" event on the weekend of the 30th and 31st of August were given.

321.14c Brunstane Station: Marjorie Thomas noted that the station was looking particularly good thanks to recent improvements and that the next meeting was due in September to discuss next steps. Opportunities around the opening of the Border's railway in September 2015 were being looked at.

321.15 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting (322) of the Portobello Community Council will be held on Monday 29th September at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 27th October (323)
Monday 24th November (324)

Portobello Community Council on the Web <http://www.portobellocc.org>
Portobello Community Council on Facebook www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil
Contact Portobello Community Council at portycc.@porty.org.uk

321st PCC meeting closed.



Signs and Plaques

Portobello Community Council Sub-committee for Signs and Plaques operated as a Sub-committee of Portobello Community Council (PCC) from April 1994 until October 2013 when its sub-committee status ceased because it did not conform to the rules for Edinburgh Community Councils. Between 1994 and 2013 this Sub-committee organised projects which were funded by grants obtained via Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) and PCC. From October 2013 the Signs and Plaques (S&P) group operated as an independent group and contact with the PCC will be maintained.

1. Portobello Community Council owns ten interpretation/information boards placed 1997 – 2011. Eight boards were placed by the former PCC Sub-committee for Signs and Plaques and two by other groups.
2. Portobello Community Council insures the boards (metal supports not insured) and Portobello Amenity Society pays Portobello Community Council 50% of the insurance premium.
3. Maintenance costs are shared equally between Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society.
4. The eleven plaques placed by the former PCC Sub-committee for Signs and Plaques on private and public buildings in Portobello are not insured and once in position become the property of the owner of the building.
5. While the Signs and Plaques group continues to function it will monitor the boards and plaques and effect repairs when possible.