



Minutes of the 377th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 26th October 2020

Present: Mike Leeman, Craig McIntyre, Lee Kindness, Frazer McNaughton, John Cleland, Laurie Berrie, Stephen Hawkins, Geoff Lynn, Miranda Hurst, Catherine Etoe, Elaine Murray

Apologies: Cllr Maureen Child, Rhys Nealon

In Attendance: Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Callum Laidlaw, Cllr Kate Campbell, MP Tommy Sheppard and 6 members of the public

377.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Lee Kindness welcomed everyone and there were introductions. Mike Leeman explained how the meeting would work as it was online and if anyone wanted to say something to raise a virtual hand and we would work through the questions and statements.

377.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

Police. Mike reported that talks on setting up a virtual community meeting were ongoing, and he was waiting for a Police Scotland representative to come back to him. There had been one email sent to the Community Council about anti-social behaviour which would be passed to PC Gareth Deering.

Spaces For People – Catherine Etoe now has the map of the area from the consultation session and will be contacting Spokes to discuss further options. Cllr. Mary Campbell reported later in the evening that the Duddingston Road markings would start on 9th November and the full segregators would be in place starting 7th December.

Speeding Issues – Cllr. Laidlaw has chased this up and the report is expected to be issued early November.

Toilets Proposal – Craig McIntyre reported that he would be publishing a document with findings and ideas W/C 2nd November which could then be reviewed by members of the community council.

377.3 Revamp of the Noticeboards

Catherine Etoe had raised the fact that the noticeboards were looking tired and rusty and that as the three noticeboards (Tumbles, Town Hall and Pumping Station) re now being utilised more so would benefit from a repaint and clean. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate use of Community Council funds. Quotes are needed.

ACTION – Stephen Hawkins to get quotes for a repaint of the three notice boards.

377.4 Adding Funds to PCC and other work we can be involved in

Craig talked about how we can start to be more creative about getting in funds and what we can do with them. An example of revamping the library space (when the library reopens) was given. It was agreed that we explore these options as they arise.

377.5 CEC Community Engagement and Public Space Surveys

CEC have released a consultation on how community engagement is around the use of public spaces

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/b24acf90/>

Geoff Lynn talked through how there has not been consultation on two specific areas recently (Straiton Place Park and the Big Wheel) and that this needs to be fed back to CEC on how our experience as a Community Council has been – and the lack of consultation. Lee and Frazer McNaughton supported what Geoff was saying.



Cllr. Kate Campbell highlighted that it is important that CEC get feedback as they need to know when things do not go right (e.g. the Big Wheel not being flagged as a potential issue) so that governance can be put in place.

Laurie Berrie talked through whether a consultation with the public was necessary on the Community Council's part or whether it would be better to publicise the CEC consultation for the public to respond to (and highlight some of the more divisive recent examples to generate interest)

Craig highlighted that he had heard concerns about the new equipment that has been put into Towerbank Playpark (Fish Park). Catherine pointed out that whilst a consultation had been done on which playpark to spend money on this was in 2016 (Geoff gave further information on this consultation) and so this is another example of something that could have been communicated better. Interested individual could also form "Friends of" groups to work with council and leverage additional funding for improving parks.

The Community Council discussed the next steps and agreed that we would write a response on how we as a body have found (or not found) consultations in regard to public spaces in Portobello. The CEC consultation would also be promoted via the PCC social media and website channels.

ACTION – Mike to write a response to the consultation from the view of the PCC as a body. Laurie to publicise the CEC consultation.

377.6 a Treasurer's Report

After making the reimbursement for the cost of Basecamp the Treasurer was made aware that Action Porty makes use of the facility and had agreed to contribute £70.00 per year. However, they had not been invoiced for the past three years. The only change on the Business Account this month was the £210.00 receipt from Action Porty. They have now told us that they no longer wish to make use of PCC Basecamp as at the end of December 2020.

The Business Account stands at £2,058.45 and the Traders' Account at £1,259.79.

Our insurers have agreed to settle the claim for the damage to the seaside board less the excess of £100.00 which is equally shared with Portobello Amenity Society. The original artwork prepared by Towerbank pupils has now been found and the board should be in place W/C 2nd November. The treasurer has not yet finalised the number and site of the boards that are covered by the insurance policy.

377.6 b Neighbourhood Network

Nothing to report. Cllr. Laidlaw has discussed with the Neighbourhood Network team and they will be putting out some ideas soon. It was agreed to take this off as a standing notice on the agenda and revisit in the future.

377.6 c Planning

Lee highlighted that St. Marks Church had made an application to form a ramp for wheeled access to the front door and form two vestibules to the side of the church.

Cllr. Mary Campbell highlighted she had some correspondence about a proposal on Joppa Grove and Stephen said that there was a similar application on Regent Street.

As the Community Council does not get involved in householder applications it would be checked on the status and if relevant to share them.

Bob Jefferson speaking on behalf of the Boathouse gave an update that they are continuing to have dialogue with local residents, architects and planning officers to see what could be improved. They will still let the current application run to see what they can learn from it. He added that they did not like the design and that there will be changes.

ACTION: Laurie to share the St. Marks Application.

377.6 d Councillors

MP Tommy Sheppard gave an update. He encouraged people to sign up to his newsletter via <https://www.tommysheppardmp.scot/>. They hope to get the office open again soon. He has seen



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caseload up by 20% largely related to people who have fallen through the cracks of COVID support. He recognises there are a large number of freelancers in his constituency which this affects.

Cllr. Mary Campbell reported on the Spaces for People update for Duddingston Road as above and that there was a Scot Government consultation on councillor standards which she urges all to engage with.

Cllr. Laidlaw highlighted that Portobello would be a dispersal zone for anti-social behaviour from 1st – 5th November.

377.7 AOB

Traders Fund. Craig talked through the meeting that had been held with Jennifer Elliot of Action Porty and she had subsequently registered for the Winter Wonderland initiative. This would require some money from the Trader's Fund which would then be backfilled. It was discussed how best to get consensus from the Traders to ensure that any money released from the fund was by consensus. It was agreed (proposed by Lee and seconded by Craig) that if 10 traders were in agreement this would form a consensus. The wider issue of who should hold the fund was also talked about and it was reiterated that the Community Council was simply holding the money and what was done and how it was done was up to the traders, the Community Council just wanted to help continue the dialogue. It was agreed to continue to invite Traders to Basecamp to allow them to discuss how best to utilise the fund.

The 377th PCC meeting was closed at 20:44

The next meeting is Monday 30th November 2020 at 7.30pm