



Minutes of the 381st Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 29th March 2021 AGREED

Present: Mike Leeman (Secretary), Craig McIntyre (Co-Chair), Lee Kindness (Co-Chair), Frazer McNaughton, Laurie Berrie (Engagement Officer), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer), Geoff Lynn, Catherine Etoe, Elaine Murray, Rhys Nealon, John Cleland

Apologies: Miranda Hurst, Police Scotland

In Attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Kate Campbell, Cllr Callum Laidlaw, 17 Members of the public

381.1 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.

381.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

In regards **380.3 Forthcoming Spaces for People Consultation** The consultation has extended to 5th April.

In regards **380.5 Kings Road Junction** Frazer McNaughton has heard back from the council re HGV routes but there is still some uncertainty as to that there are not official HGV routes, just signposts and suggested routes on HGV specific sat-navs. Frazer thanked Maureen Child for helping to chase this up.

381.3 Presentation By Portobello Sands

Alex Orr (Orbit), Colin Campbell (Bellair), Sheila Hobbs (Scott Hobbs Planning) gave a presentation on what they intend to submit for planning application on the vacant site at Pipe Lane. This presentation and new 3D visuals will be made public shortly so that those who were unable to attend the meeting are able to view.

As this is a revision of a previous application (which was withdrawn), there were questions around the differences and if all options had been considered. Of particular note were Frazer McNaughton asking about the change of ground use from commercial to residential, the public realm outside of the planning area. Craig McIntyre asked about the chance of the community being involved in creating art work for the railing area and Elaine Murray checking the size of the wall versus what was proposed before.

ACTION: Once the visuals are made public publicise them. Once the planning application goes in to consult the community so that PCC can make a representation.

381.4 Hustings for May Elections

Stephen Hawkins asked for this to be on. Lee Kindness said that we have also been approached by Leith Links CC on if we were going to do anything. Viability of doing this online was discussed and Geoff Lynn pointed out that previously we had asked for questions in advance so this could happen again. Lee asked Glenn Innes if he would be happy to chair, which he would be. It was agreed that we would look to set up an online hustings.

ACTION: Stephen Hawkins to approach the candidate list once released to find a mutual time. Geoff Lynn to put a question form together. Mike Leeman to ensure that it can be done technically. Contact the other neighbouring community councils once we have agreed dates and workings.

381.5 Prom business licences

This is specifically about a new civic licence application for a sauna on the prom at the foot of James Street. It was also a general discussion about the fact that the City of Edinburgh Council do not have a consistent approach of contacting the community council when these licences come up.



There were questions from the public and the community council specifically about the sauna as there was no details on how it would actually work (from where the operators would be based to how bookings would be made to if the structure would leave the prom every evening)

Cllr. Maureen Child pointed out that for Civic Licences with any representation in favour or against for it would only count as one representation (no weighting given if it came from an individual or group such as a community council). She also said that the proposer was more than happy to receive any questions to provide answers.

ACTION: Direct people to make their own representation in favour or against. Publish on the website that we would collate questions to pass to the proposer.

381.6 Pipe Lane Toilet facilities

Craig McIntyre said that more work had gone into the document which was to advise the general public that thought was being put into what could happen if the Pipe Lane toilets were to have a commercial concession added to them to help with running costs. It is now at the stage where it would be good to go out to consultation to gather thoughts to pass back to City of Edinburgh Council. Geoff Lynn pointed out that any consultation would need to be objective and give the public the opportunity to also disregard any changes.

ACTION: Have a consultation and final proposal designed for the April meeting so this can go live.

381.7 a Treasurer's Report

There has been no income or expenditure since the last meeting. Therefore, the account balance is the same at £ 1,908.27.

The Treasurer has still to receive the £ 342.00 to be returned to the Traders' Account from the Winter Wanderland project and has emailed Jennifer Elliot again. At present this account stands at £ 863.34.

381.7 b Police

No one from Police Scotland was able to attend. Mike Leeman went through the things he had been sent by Police Scotland. 1. There have been several visits to sites around Portobello with a speed gun and this is intended to continue. 2. Whilst there has been more focus on the Meadows recently there is a commitment to ensure police presence across Portobello is maintained. 3. There have been increased reports about anti-social behaviour in Williamfield Square and Rosefield Park so there is a concentration on patrols there.

381.7 c Planning

The residential change of use on St James' Church have been approved

381.7 d Councillors

Cllr. Callum Laidlaw said that he has been contacted a lot about lack of toilet facilities. On 20th April there will be a council committee which will provide costings to reopen Bath Street facilities and to extend the opening hours of the Pipe Lane facilities.

Cllr. Kate Campbell said that there was a report about to be sent out which was about junctions across the city and Kings Road/Sir Harry Lauder Road was going to be one of those reported on.

Cllr. Mary Campbell said that there would be extra enforcement teams looking at the Spaces For People measures on Duddingston Road.

381.8 AOB

Lee Kindness said that he and Frazer McNaughton had discussion with the City of Edinburgh Council on Kings Place and the ongoing caravan issue and that things were looking positive and we would hope to have more detail in the coming months.



Bob Jefferson from the Oscar's Group talked about an ongoing initiative – Keep Porty Tidy – that they were running and that they are now able to employ 2 people and enlist over 30 volunteers to help to keep areas clear of litter. They are focusing on high pedestrian traffic areas and all litter, not just the ones from their companies. They do have a Facebook page and will have tabarded litter pickers becoming more prominent over the next few weeks.

Esther Clayton asked about the work on the old pumping station toilet block and what the timescales for opening are. Bob replied that there have been delays due to legal issues but this is now sorted so they hope to open ASAP. He confirmed that the toilets would be open for all members of the public, customers or not.

The meeting concluded at 21.00

The next meeting is Monday 26th April 2021