



## Minutes of the 393rd Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 30th May 2022 AGREED

**Present:** Mike Leeman (Secretary), Craig McIntyre (Chair), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer)(PAS), Frazer McNaughton, Laurie Berrie, Esther Clayton, Lee Kindness, Elaine Murray, Catherine Etoe (B&RRA)

**Apologies:** Geoff Lynn (Towerbank PS), Esther Clayton, Cllr Jane Meagher, Cllr. Alys Mumford, Cllr. Kate Campbell

**In Attendance:** Cllr Tim Jones & 12 Members of the public

### 393.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Craig McIntyre 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.

### 393.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Lee Kindness talked through the visit to the George - Quite well attended - extra members of the public then a subsection to the site in 2 groups. Lee had been on a site visit 2 years ago and not much had changed in the internals. Craig asked about next steps. Lee said the target for a decision was about now. He is looking into it.

Mike is sending out the letter for the Southfield Place this week now that the new councillors and transport convener have been put in place.

Minutes agreed

### 393.3 School Football Pitches

Football pitches - Emma Depmsey raised the issue that accessing the football pitches was unnecessarily complicated and was not working. Raised with the school, Active Schools, Edinburgh Leisure and so people are not able to access the pitches properly. Issues that barrier to physical activity. Emma wants to do something about it. Sure when they were building the school that the pitches would have to be accessible.

Frazer McNaughton - same issue with St John's Primary so looking at the same issue. Coming up against an institutional ability for open access and ability. Think it is a political thing to raise. Mike Leeman said that the head teacher of St John's is looking to get who is responsible for the keys.

Stephen Hawkins supported what Emma said about that there was a commitment that the school pitches would be accessible for the pitches. Despite there being some vandalism there should not be a reason to stop usage.



Frazer suggests that one of the councillors answer back to them.

Cath Etoe said that there is a hatch on the Portobello Pitches. Stephen said that the hatch was used and then after the vandalism it was closed.

**ACTION : Send email to active councillors to report back at the next meeting.**

### **393.4 Beach Lane at the High Street Planning for new flats**

Sandy Anderson from Block 9 , Owais who is the PM and Peter MacLeod who is the planning consultant.

Sandy - Summarised where the site is on the High Street. Talked through the design statement and what other buildings around the area are like. Went through what plans and design sketches that evolved to the final design which is on the planning portal. Also explained why they made the design as it was to be sympathetic to the surrounding area.

Question from Stephen Hawkins - Footprint takes up the site - is it acceptable that there is no space at the back. The ground floor is retail - will this be cafe and shop or just a retail shop.

The existing site uses less area but the area at the rear of the site is for cycle parking. There are options to scale down at the back but the height of the Ramsay Place was the same. Owais said that it did not provide any better green space which would not have had amenity advantages. Plans in terms of retail have not been firmed up - it is hoped that kitchen units will be there (cafe but not takeaway)

Member of the public - 1. Amenity - is there scope to use the roof as somewhere to access. 2. Bicycle storage on the ground floor; will there be provision for powering ebikes and something for mobility scooters 3. On the existing pavement there is not sufficient space to take a wheelchair, will this be fixed.

Sandy - Aware that it is onerous so set the building back at ground floor to safely move down and access the property. Charging of ebikes- not shown on drawings but it can be easily put in. Mobility scooters - there is adequate space for them to be involved - space is 2 bikes per apartment so this could be used. Roof garden was looked into - incorporating large balconies and spaces. Planners had issues with roof gardens, there are photovoltaic panels there now.

Frazer McNaughton - much like and commend about the project and support it. One thing to raise is the ground floor retail use is unresolved and the height juxtaposes with the neighbouring shops. A final point mentioned about not resolving the retail functions; as part of Action Westbank got the feedback that there was not enough variety of size on the high street (most are small) - so as a community would hope this feeds into the retail space.

Sandy - at the moment the retail unit there is no dedicated tenant and imagine any tenant would have to put in their own planning permission. Barber has a deep sign, the Indian takeaway has something smaller but higher. There is room for signage and on the sidings. Wanted to futureproof the retail flexibility of one large unit or two smaller units. They are smaller height units but there is enough room to have in the ceiling void.



Craig McIntyre - Key as a community that we attract inward investment so any punctuation of space. The material pallet is good and regarding the timeline is there an ideal world for getting on site and getting it done.

Owais said nothing set in stone but intention would be to be onsite next year and use the least possible disruption once work does start.

Happy to have any further questions.

Frazer asked about the question on Beach Lane and if the council had a take on if it could be done something different. Sandy said that the council is aware that the boundary of the building was where the building was. There has not been any discussion about changing the priorities of the road.

Cath Etoe pointed out that it was used as a path for school children as well.

Frazer - let's raise it with the councillors.

No actions were agreed to be taken.

### **393.5 a Treasurer's Report**

There has been no expenditure during the preceding month which leaves the current balance at £ 1,823.67.

There has been no movement on the Traders' account other than an additional monthly penny interest resulting in a balance of £1205.48.

### **393.5 b Police**

There was no Police report this month

### **393.5 c Planning**

Nothing of note

### **393.5 d Councillors**

Cllr. Tim Jones was the only person who could join this month. Nothing to add at this point

### **393.5 e Seafield**

Not much happening. There was a sounding board meeting. Edging towards signing a memorandum of working with the council on the tender appraisals for the masterplan. Not much happening. There was a sounding board meeting. Edging towards signing a memorandum of working with the council on the tender appraisals for the masterplan.

### **393.6 AOB**

A member of the public - concerned about issues discussed and then dissipated. Such as the problems at Abercorn Terrace and showed mitigation of traffic. Said commencement of June/July. Shame no councillors so assuming nothing has been heard. Also had presentation on the path on the upper part of Quarry Park and nothing is happening - would be good to see this start to happen. Craig McIntyre - Update on Abercorn. Has this down to chase up what is happening. Also will follow this up for the next meeting.



**ACTION - Craig will email regarding both issues**

Mike asked about the Village Show and Lee said that this would be discussed at the POD AGM,

The meeting concluded at 21.06

The next meeting is Monday 27th June 2022