



Minutes of the 407th meeting of Portobello Community Council held on Monday 25th October 2023 - DRAFT

Present: Craig McIntyre (Chair), Mike Leeman (Secretary), Frazer McNaughton, Esther Clayton, Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer & PAS Representative)

Apologies: Lee Kindness, Cllr. Alys. Mumford, Cllr. Jane Meagher, Catherine Etoe (B&RRA), Laurie Berrie

In attendance: Cllr Tim Jones, and 8 members of the public

407.1 Chair's welcome and introductions

Craig McIntyre welcomed everyone and there were introductions.

407.2 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the September 2023 meeting were agreed.

Actions from the Previous Minutes

Mike submitted the deputation regarding Cllr. Tim Jones motion to Edinburgh Council about the provision of public toilets, he also appeared virtually to present to council.

7N were to present progress on the Seafield masterplan work but PCC postponed this to a future date. This was due to the work on the masterplan currently being on hold while further issues with the approach to coastal defence are explored.

Regarding the Lighting in Rosefield Park Cllr. Alys Mumford found that this was not going to change due to :

- Impact on residents (consultation has been done before and people weren't happy, and the positioning would mean it would be very bright for them)
- Difficulty of giving lighting to one court and not others in the city
- It would need a new supply to light that area of the park. This also might impact on the road.
- Cost – it could be between £150-200k

The Council are, however, looking at what they can do to upgrade existing lighting.

407.3 Update on The George

HES upheld the decision that the building continued to be listed. This was published on our website.

Esther Clayton provided an update from Friends of the George. This will be published on the website.

ACTION : Mike to publish Friends of the George pamphlet on the website



407.4 Groyne Damage after Storm Babet

Craig explained that recent storm has been bad for Portobello beach as lots of beach erosion.

We also wanted to find out why the concrete blocks are not in place as yet. Walkway has suffered substantial sand build up over the prom.

Groynes have been impacted again and may now be compromised.

Member of the public asked if the Groynes are doing the job.

Craig explained that answer the last time we got from the council but that we need to ask again.

Frazer McNaughton explained about the washback of the sand and that they needed to be in the best position to help and there is a real worry about the state of the Groyne and the loss of the sand. It was 2 years ago that the Groyne was damaged and so far it has not being fixed.

We feel it needs an expert to look at the current situation.

The sea wall has also eroded in some areas and some of stone from the gabion baskets of groyne 6 has been washed out.

Discussion on whether the Community Council should submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to see all reports and internal CEC communication on the condition and proposed repair of Groyne 4, in order to better understand the situation and the Council decision making and delays in relation to the proposed repair

Member of the public - could we get the press involved once we have information from the council.

As a Community council we agreed to send a polite FOI request and to wait an see what the response is before any other action

ACTION : Write to the councillors to ask why the blocks are not installed.

Write to the council again about Groyne 5. Action for Mike

Write a (polite) FOI to CEC about Groyne 5. Action for Craig

407.5 Flooding on Joppa Road

Craig has been approached by people about the flooding from the bus stop on Morton Street.

Whilst one drain has been cleared there are others which need looking at

ACTION : Craig to contact the councillors to bring this to their attention

407.6 Kings Place Improvement Funding

Cllr. Kate Campbell has been looking to into where we are with the funding but no update as yet.

Craig and Frazer have met with Graeme McGartland from CEC and he is looking into where the ringfenced cash is.



It has been over a year since the promise of money.

Do we ask the community if we should be pursuing the original money and should we push Sustrans to continue with their project?

Stephen Hawkins raised that the point that council has not managed the area (Debris and old tables look like they have been dumped)

ACTION : Craig to See if the funding still exists and then what can be done if it is. Follow up with Cllr. Kate Campbell

407.8 a . Treasurer

Since the last report given at the August meeting a fee of £180.00 for the room hire has been paid. This covers six meetings in the period from May until November 2023. Other outgoings were £56.68 for the web hosting and a total of £48.40 for reimbursement of Basecamp fees and a Facebook boost. This gives a balance of £1,549.08 in the business account.

There has been the additional interest of £2.25 added to the Traders' account which results in a balance of £1213.94.

407.8 b. Police

There was no Police Report this month but they have confirmed that they have stepped up attendance around Adelphi Place.

Craig had an update on Bonfire night from the Police and that there would be a dispersal zone in Portobello again.

407.8 c Planning

Nothing of note. We published a number of advertisements on the social channels.

407.8 d Councillors

Tim Jones. Motion put to council for feasibility of public toilets passed. There was a good amendment from the Lib Dems for providing temporary washing facilities. There will now be a report in 2 months around feasibility and cost of building new toilets and shower facilities.

Update on the issue of review of the school visits to make them more equitable. Report now published and is on the council website. New guidance is now available.

Update on the Clock - Tim has been assured that the legal agreement is on Paul Lawrence's desk to be looked at.

Stephen pointed out it has been almost 20 years since the clock was taken for repairs.

407.8 e Seafield

Seafield - Masterplan team were due to come and present this evening but everything is on hold for the time being. The Scottish Government produced new coastal change guidance which will mean that the council needs to decide on a plan for the 24 miles of Edinburgh coast and this will impact on



what can be done at Seafield. As the government pay 80% of funding toward the coastal defences, it needs to really nail this down.

A member of the public suggested that it would be better to have something done sooner rather than later. Especially given what has happened with the more recent defences.

407.9 AOB

Craig McIntyre - Safety measures at Abercorn Terrace. Promised that the design phase was completed and that the works would commence when the contractors were found. Craig has not had a response to emails sent so would like to push for what is happening.

There were lots of anecdotes about what had happened to people (council members and members of the public) along that stretch.

Cllr. Tim Jones pointed out that 11,500 vehicles come along this road every day (both directions). Which is the largest number of vehicles on an Edinburgh Road.

Stephen Hawkins - Community Advisory Group have come forward with some high-level proposals for the Portobello Town Centre plan. The Next meeting is in the new year.

Craig said that he has been in contact and they feel it would be better to come and present at the beginning of the new year. We will follow up in January.

Stephen Hawkins - Couple of consultations for us to publicise. Community Council Scheme consultation. Should we as a Community Council want to put a response in. Do we want to form an opinion on the scheme? Agreed that Stephen would summarise on Basecamp so that we can discuss at the November meeting.

The second was that the Historic Environment Scotland are asking for suggestions re Holyrood Park access. Mike has already publicised it but will bring it to the top again and put it on the Facebook page.

ACTION : Stephen to Highlight key parts of the Community Council scheme consultation and discuss at the next meeting. Mike will publicise the Holyrood Park consultation.

Mike let the community council know that the Place based fund is going to be asking for nominations by March of 2024. Mike to publish so we can discuss at the next meeting on how we can consult with the community about projects which we would like to propose.

Meeting completed at 20.45.

The next meeting is 27th November 2023.